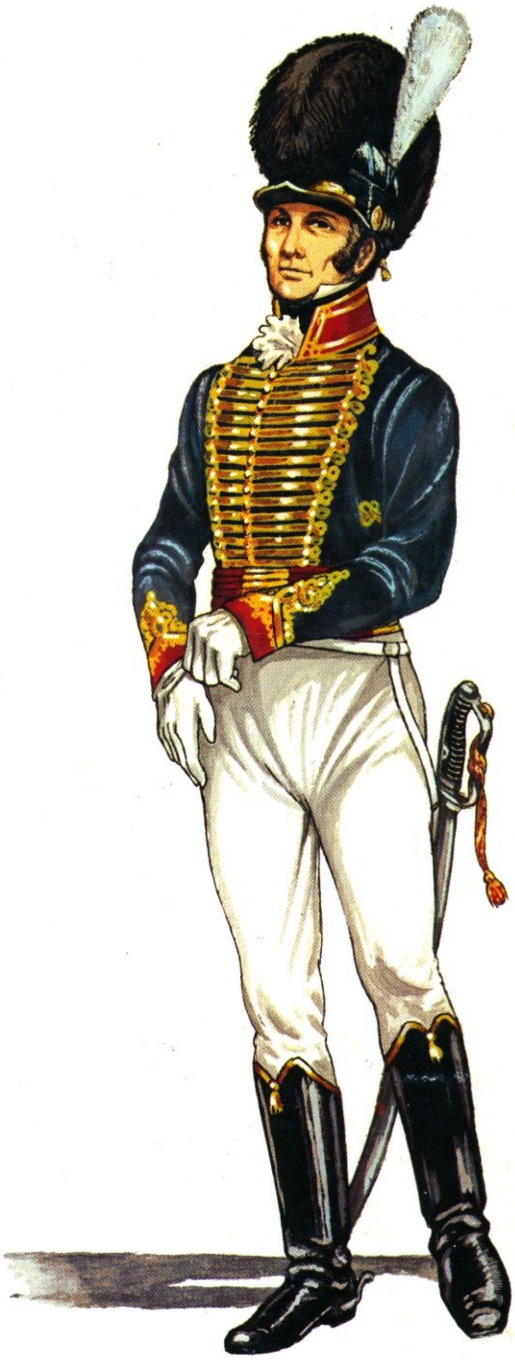
SOLDIERS of the NAPOLEONIC WARS

By ALAN KEMP

The Royal Artillery

(7) Uniforms and equipment



Officer Royal Horse Artillery, 1815.

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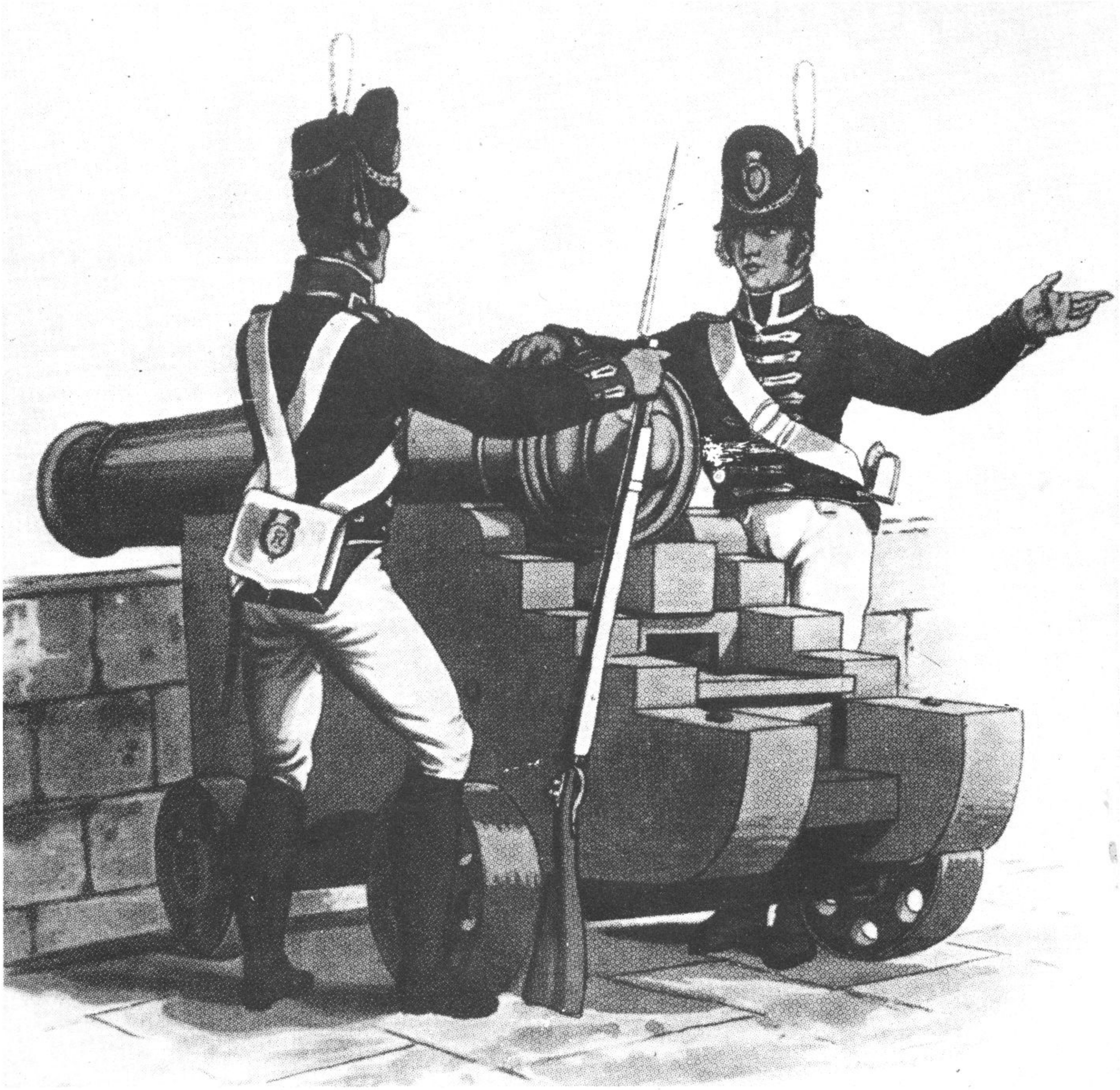


This Hamilton Smith print of Foot Gunners of 1815 shows blue coatees with red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and shoulder-straps – all lacing is yellow. The shako cords are shown by him as yellow rather than the usual white and he shows a loop hanging around the rear of the cap which is unlikely.

Part 7: The Royal Artillery

ROYAL ARTILLERY IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

A thorough survey of the guns, field equipment and organisation of the Royal Artillery is outside the scope of this book, which deals only with the uniforms of the Corps during the great French Wars up to Waterloo. The following points however have been included as a brief introduction to the function of the Royal Artillery.

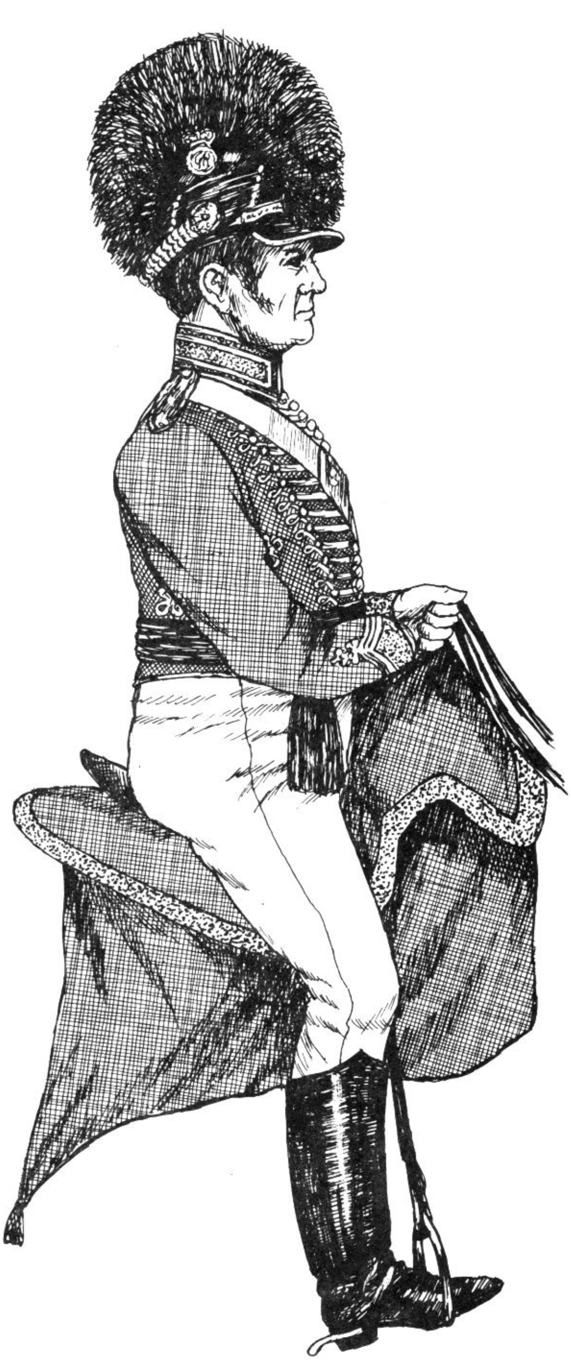
Prior to 1715 it was the practice to raise a train of artillery only when the need arose. Failure to do this in time for the first Jacobite rebellion caused the authorities to establish a permanent artillery force which would be on call at any time. The two companies of artillery created in May 1716 formed the start of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. By the time of the French Wars at the end of the eighteenth century a unit of field artillery was organised as follows. Administratively, it was known as a Company but in the field was called a Brigade. By the time of Waterloo the more popular title for an artillery unit was 'Field Battery'. A battery normally consisted of five officers and ninety-seven other ranks. In the Waterloo campaign all field batteries were equipped with five 9-pounder guns and a 5½-inch howitzer.

Gun teams and wagons of the Field Artillery were moved by the Corps of Artillery Drivers which was a separate body not permanently attached to an artillery unit. Each Field Artillery battery had attached to it one officer and eighty-five other ranks of the Driver Corps for each action.

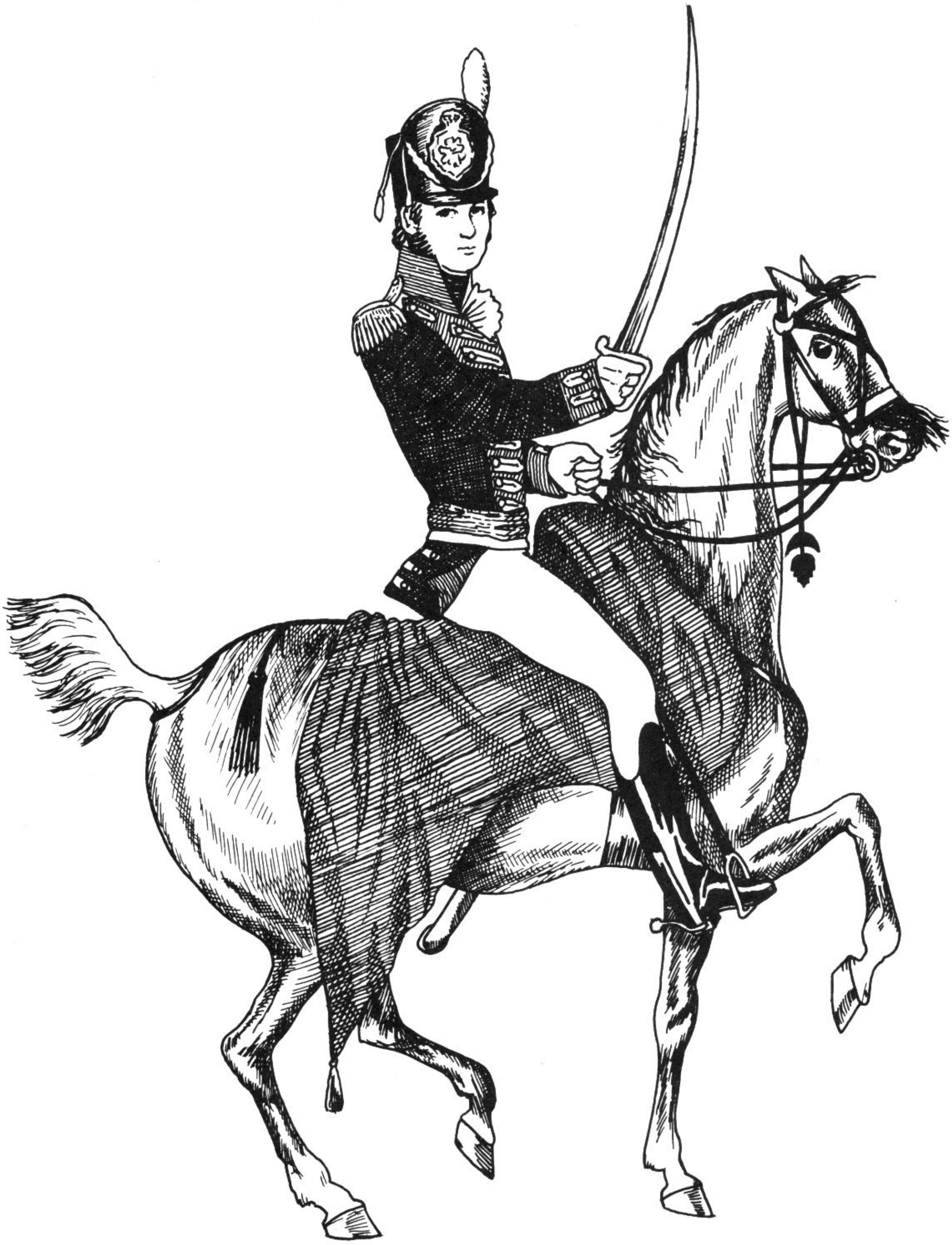
In February 1793 the first troop of mounted artillery was formed to give greater mobility to the arm. This marked the beginning of the Royal Horse Artillery. A Troop was the tactical unit of the RHA, each Troop having five officers, one hundred and sixty-five other ranks and one hundred and sixty-four horses. This number was altered to one hundred and ninety men and horses per troop just before Waterloo. Each troop was equipped with five 6 pounders and one 5½-inch howitzer during the Peninsular campaign. The guns were each pulled by a team of eight horses and the ammunition wagons by six.

At Waterloo half of the eight Troops of RHA were equipped with 9 pounders in place of 6 pounders. One Troop (Bull's) had six 5½-inch howitzers and another (Whinyate's) was armed with Congreve Rockets as well as five 6 pounders and one 5½-inch howitzer.

The RHA included two rocket troops equipped with the Congreve system. Rocketeers of the RHA had seen service at the battle of Leipzig in 1813 as well as at Waterloo. The performance of rockets was very erratic and few successes are recorded. One of the rocket troops was disbanded in 1816.



Quartermaster of the Royal Horse Artillery 1815. (From a contemporary portrait of James Wightman) The coat lace and shoulder strap are gold and the sash crimson. Note the chin scales tied behind the helmet.



An officer of foot artillery in full dress, 1815 – from a contemporary print.

ROYAL ARTILLERY 1800–1815

FOOT ARTILLERY

HEAD-DRESS OF OTHER RANKS

From 1794 Foot Artillerymen wore a black hat with leather bindings and brim. It was known as the 'Mother Shipton' hat and appears to have been in use till as late as 1813. The hat had a very narrow brim and a tapering high crown. Around the base of the crown was a band of broad yellow worsted. The top centre front had a small black cockade from which rose a scarlet tuft. Robertson in 1804 gives the tuft as being white with a 'brass device' in front. The head-dress had the appearance of the cap worn by Welsh women in national dress. The 'Mother Shipton' hat was discontinued by a General Order of August, 1813.

From 1800 to 1812 the head-dress of the men of Foot Artillery was the cylindrical or 'stove-pipe' shako. It would appear that the 'stove-pipe' was worn concurrently with the 'Mother Shipton', the latter probably being relegated to undress or fatigue wear.

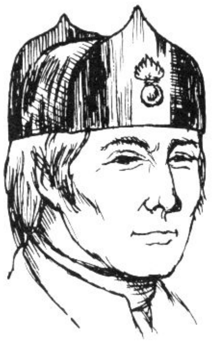
The 'stove-pipe' shako was of lacquered black leather with a flat top edged in black leather binding. In front was a peak of plain black leather. The shako was about 8 inches high with a diameter of 7 inches. An order of 1805 gives 10 inches maximum plume height for ranks up to corporal and 13 inches for other NCO's and Officers. The plume, which was white, was standardised in height for all ranks, including Officers, in 1808. It was worn on the top front centre of the shako from a small black cockade. Below the plume, on the cap front, was a brass badge plate.

The 'stove-pipe' shako was replaced about 1812 by the false-fronted model usually known as the 'Waterloo' or 'Belgic' shako. This was made of coarse black felt with black leather bindings and a flat front peak. The cap was about 8 inches high at the false front and 6 inches high to the top of the crown. Across the front of the cap were slung plaited 'chain' cords with tassels of white worsted (some sources give yellow cords for artillery). The false front had a brass badge plate in the centre and a white plume was worn from the top of the left side of the cap. Some shakos of this pattern had a rectangular piece of oiled cloth or leather fastened up to the back of the crown. This flap or 'fall' could be lowered to protect the neck in inclement weather. The shako could also be completely covered by a cover of waterproof oilskin to protect it on campaign. Plume covers were also fitted.

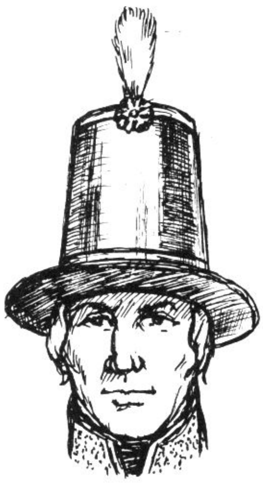
According to Mercer, men of the Foot Artillery wore a fatigue cap for undress parades, watering duties, etc. This was made of black leather, being low in the crown with upright peaks at front and rear. It had a small brass grenade badge on the front. The cap was, apparently, never cleaned.

NCOs

Sergeants wore the same style of head-dress as the men, although in the case of the 'Waterloo shako' the cap would probably have been made of coarse beaver rather than felt. Senior NCO's may have worn caps of fine beaver similar to those worn by the Officers. Staff Sergeants wore the cocked hat until 1813.



Fatigue cap of Foot Artillery,
circa *1800.*

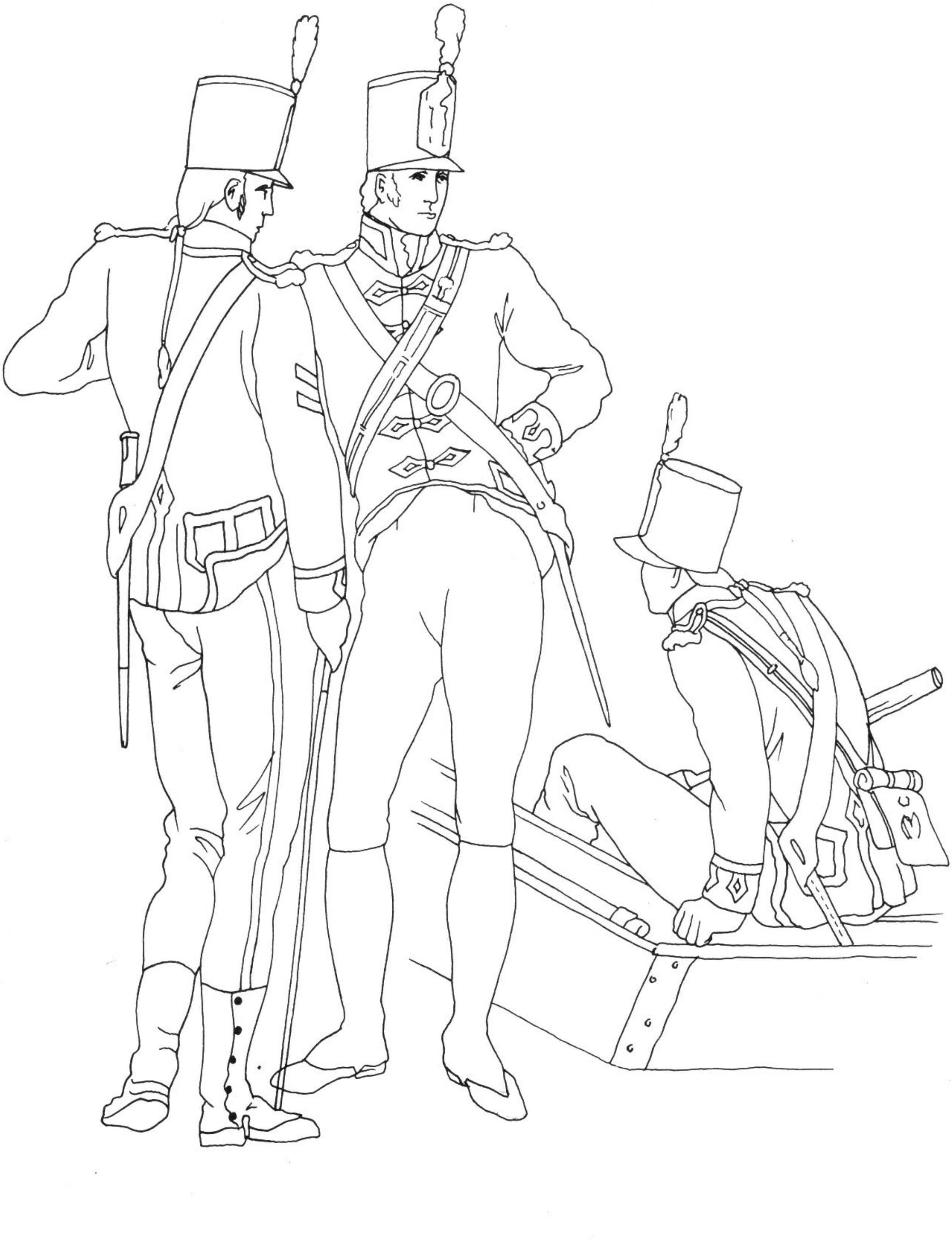


The 'Mother Shipton' hat of the foot artillery, 1794–1813.

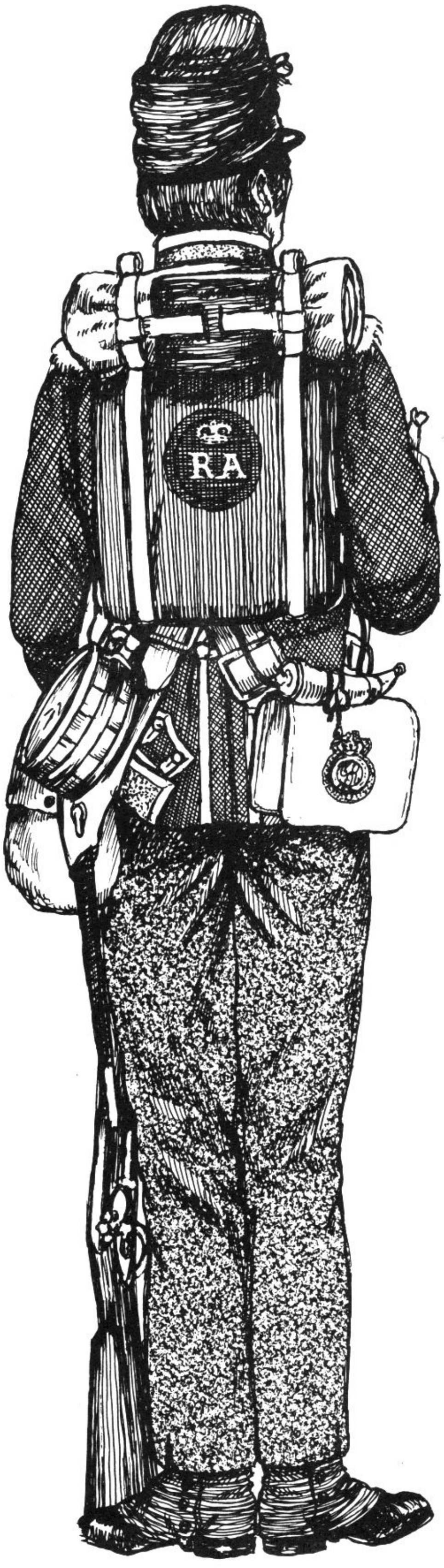
OFFICERS

Up to about 1804 Officers of Foot Artillery wore the cocked hat. This hat, more than any other, was being constantly subjected to changes in style and mode of wearing. Mercer states that he purchased a hat and feather according to regulations, only to find that he was the laughing stock of his colleagues on parade as his hat had the sides curled up whereas the style then coming into vogue was drooping sides. Second Captain Robertson writes that in 1804 cocked hats were worn with a drooping white hackle feather. The hats were worn square across the head on parade but 'fore and aft' off parade. Although replaced by the shako in 1804 the cocked hat was still worn in undress.

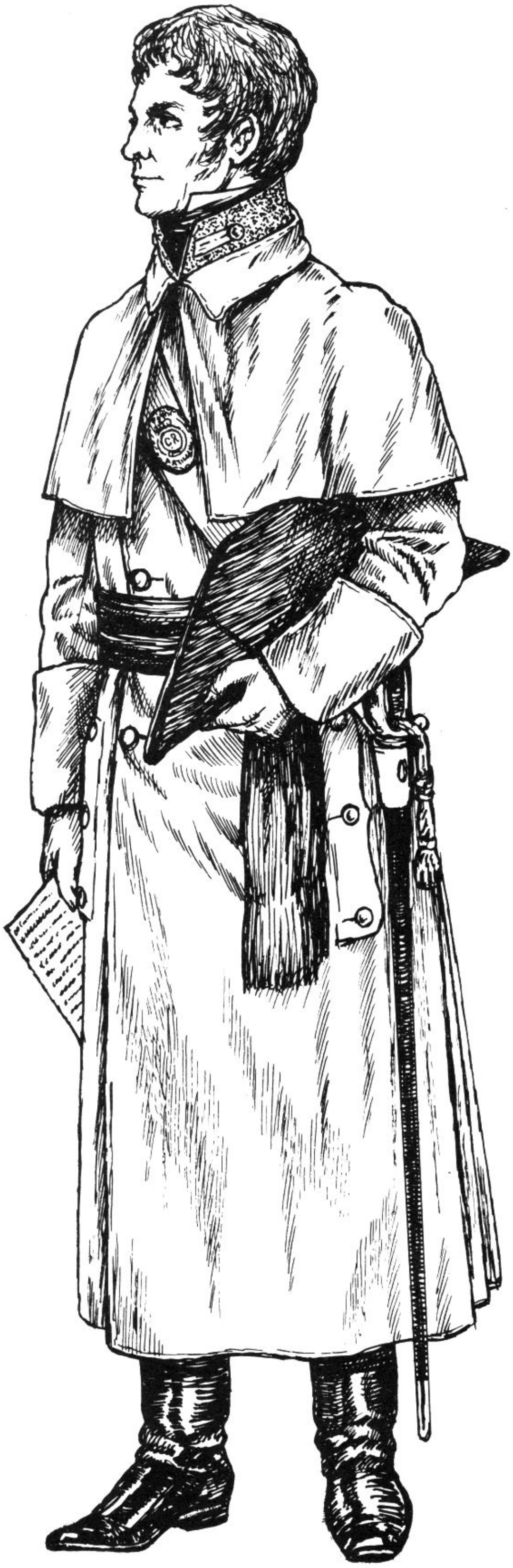
The 'Waterloo shako' worn by Officers from 1812 to 1816 was made of fine beaver with a front plate and tassels and cords of gilt.



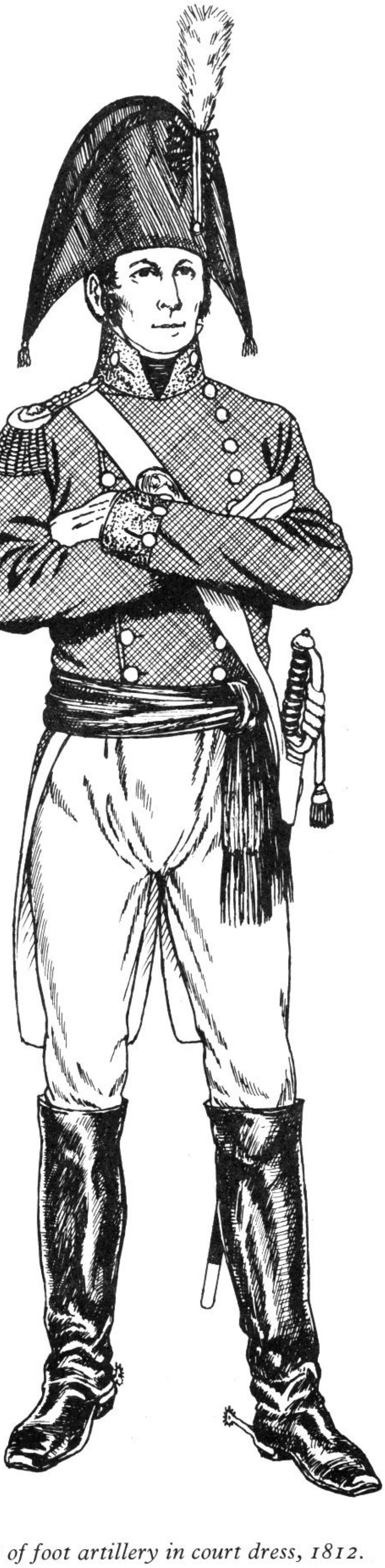
Foot gunners. (after Atkinson) The coats are blue with red facings laced yellow. The 'stove-pipe' shako of 1800 to 1812 is worn with white plume. The corporal on the left wears blue pantaloons laced yellow and half gaiters. The gunner next to him wears full dress breeches and knee-length gaiters.



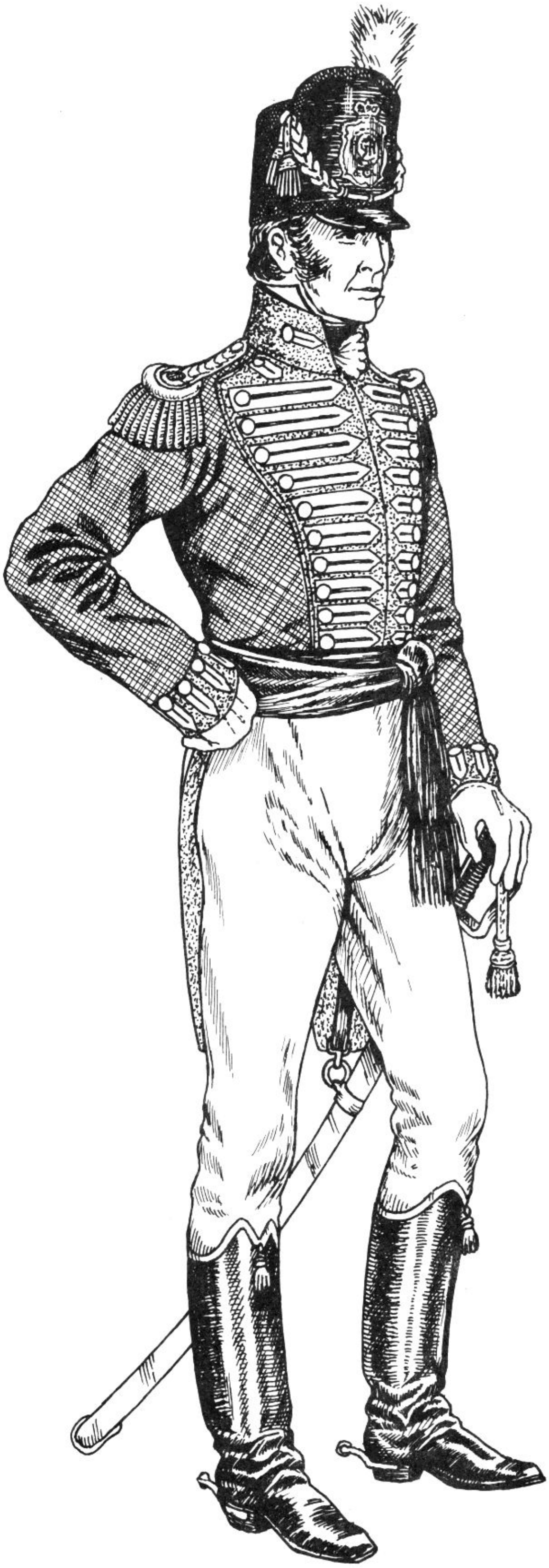
Rear view of foot artilleryman in marching order, 1815. The brass badge on the white pouch had a red cloth lining and the powder-horn was attached to a red cord laced around the shoulder belt. The motif on the knapsack could be yellow or white, usually on blue.



Officer of foot artillery in grey greatcoat, 1815. Here the cocked hat is worn in place of the shako.



Officer of foot artillery in court dress, 1812.



Officer of foot artillery in full dress, 1815.

COATS

About 1798 the long coat with narrow lapels was replaced by the coatee. This garment was of blue cloth at first having many variations of style and ornament. Mercer states that at one time there were five different coats and jackets in service. It became the fashion to leave the top three buttons undone when the coat was buttoned across the body. This enabled the wearer to display a cambric shirt frill.

The coats had scarlet collars and round cuffs, as well as short turnbacks. Occasionally no turnbacks were worn and in full dress coats were long skirted. The scarlet lapels were also decorated in a number of ways, from gilt lace knots to pointed loops. In 1799 the scarlet collar was evidently without lace and cut to a 'V' shape in front to show the black stock. The round scarlet cuffs had gilt buttons and the turnbacks at this time were white, reaching to below the back of the knees. No lace was worn but Field Officers had a gold-fringed epaulette on each shoulder, while Company Officers wore one on the right. By 1810 Captains were wearing one epaulette with bullion fringe and Subalterns a lighter gilt fringe.

The coat for other ranks in 1799 was similar to that of the officers but had yellow worsted lace around the collar and cuff edge and buttonholes. On each side of the chest from the buttons were five yellow lace loops. The short skirts had white turnbacks. Ranks were indicated as follows:

Men had two worsted shoulder-straps, Bombardiers one fringed epaulette of yellow worsted or silk on the right shoulder, Corporals two fringed epaulettes, Sergeants two gold lace straps, Staff Sergeants two gold lace-fringed epaulettes.

Sergeants and above wore gold lace in place of yellow worsted on the coat.

In 1810 the coat skirts were ordered to be 9 inches in length. Battalion Officers were instructed in January 1812 to wear a regimental coat similar to that of the private men but with gilt lace. The scarlet lapels were made to button across the chest from left to right and the scarlet collar had no other decoration than a button and loop on each side. The scarlet round cuffs had lace around the edge and buttons. The knee-length skirts of the coat were lined white. The right shoulder carried a bullion-fringed epaulette. In the small of the back were two buttons linked with a triangle of gilt lace. This ornament was in yellow worsted for the men.

An officer's coat *circa* 1815 survives. It has a scarlet plastron front with eight horizontal loops and buttons on each side with two more set below the shoulders at an angle. The scarlet collar has a button and loop on each side and each round cuff has four buttons and loops. The skirts are 8 inches in length, each bears four buttons and loops and the usual triangle of gilt lace between two buttons appears on the back of the waist. Another coat of approximately the same period has ten buttons and loops on the plastron lapels. The turnbacks of officers' coats are usually shown as white, edged in gilt lace and with an ornament of a gold grenade on a red patch.

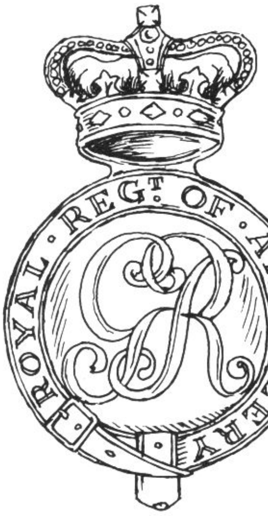
The coatee for other ranks in 1815 was single-breasted of blue cloth. The collar and cuffs were red. Turnbacks are shown by different authorities as being either red or white. The collar was edged all round with yellow worsted braid but had no buttons. The cuffs were edged in yellow braid and each of the four cuff buttons had a braid loop. Down the centre front of the coatee were ten brass buttons with a yellow worsted loop on each side. The loops decreased in size towards the bottom of the jacket from about 4 inches long at the top to 3 inches at the bottom. The scarlet shoulder-straps were edged in yellow braid and are shown by Atkinson to have had a yellow worsted tuft at the end of each. The turnbacks were also edged in yellow braid.

HEAD-DRESS

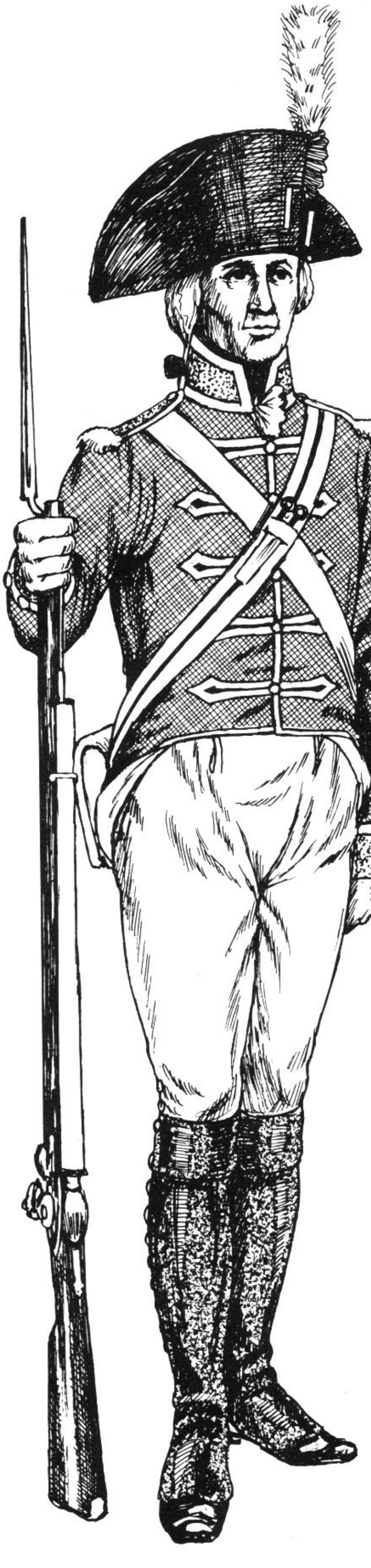
First worn about 1793 the RHA helmet resembled the 'Tarleton' model of Light Dragoons. It was made of black enamelled metal or leather with a brass-bound leather peak and a bearskin crest fore and aft. By 1805 the red turban around the crown had been changed to black velvet and then to black silk. Dighton shows officers with blue silk turbans. This turban was held on each side with three thin metal chains. Originally the helmet had a straight cut base and peak but, according to Mercer, it underwent a series of refinements in style which gave a more curved base resulting in it becoming an 'Elegant article of Dress'. The developments included the addition of metal chin scales and a fuller and higher bearskin roach. The scales were often tied behind the helmet when not worn beneath the chin. Across the front of the helmet was a gilt scroll bearing the legend 'ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY'. On the right side above the turban was a gilt crowned garter badge whilst on the left was a white plume which appears to have varied in style somewhat according to the personal tastes of some Officers. A print of 1806 by Atkinson shows two RHA Officers. One wears a helmet and the other a cocked hat but both have white over red plumes.

For the men of the RHA the gilt fittings were replaced by ones of yellow metal and the bearskin crests were not so luxurious.

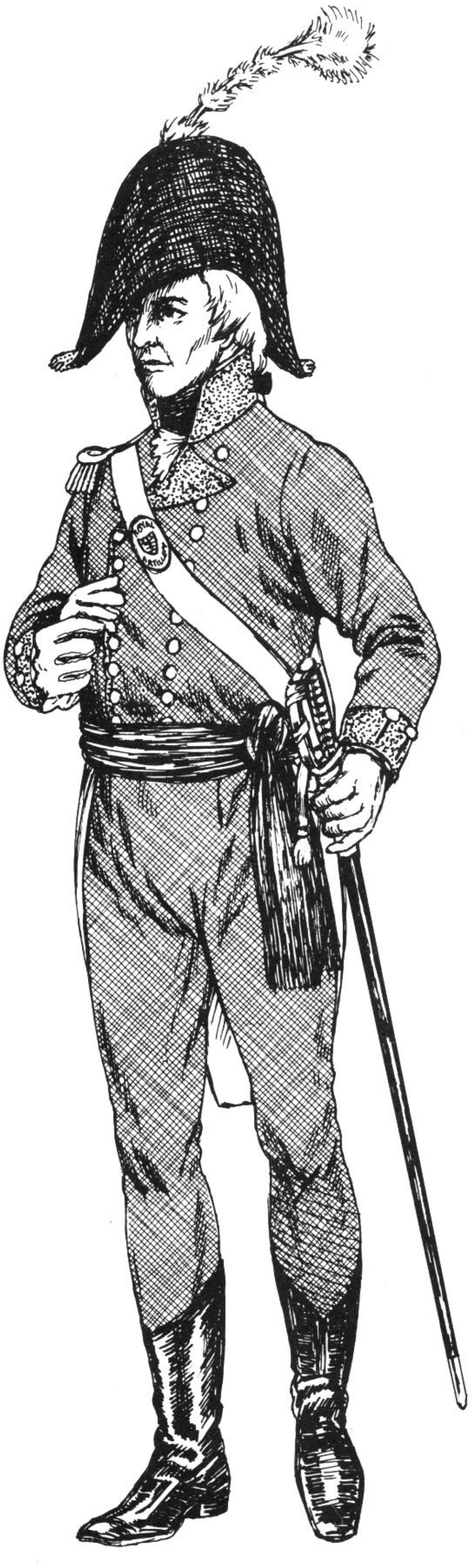
The men also wore an undress cap for fatigue duties. It was a conical cap of blue cloth edged with red lace and laced up the back with red ferreting. Many examples of non-regulation



Badge worn on the right-hand side of the Royal Horse Artillery helmet.



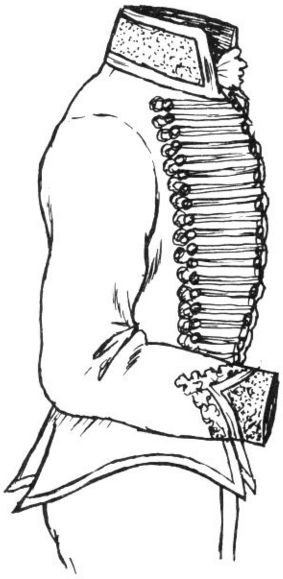
Gunner of the Royal Artillery, 1799. The cockade was held with a yellow loop and button and the plume was white. This coat was the first closed front model and had only five bastion loops on the front. The cuffs had yellow lace around the edge but none on the button-holes. The short turnbacks were white and the worsted tufts on the epaulettes yellow. The pouch belt and pouch were white leather.



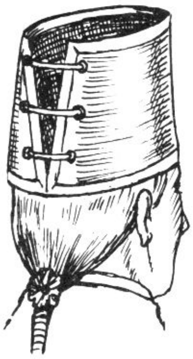
Company officer of the Royal Artillery, 1803. This uniform would have been worn on undress parades. The coat had plain scarlet facings with no lace at all. The long tails were lined white. The dark blue pantaloons were also worn in full dress with the addition of decorative Austrian knots on the thighs and leg stripes of gold lace. The heavily drooping cocked hat sports a sponge-head feather, a fashionable eccentricity. The cut-top half boots were in vogue before the hessian boot with tassel.

watering caps were much in evidence and the blue cap with red band in the 'dinner plate' or 'pork pie' style was worn in undress.

Many Officers of Horse Artillery wore the cocked hat in place of the helmet for walking out or undress. Mercer writes that it was worn with the pelisse about 1805. Two water-colours by an unknown artist made in about 1810 show both a Private and Officer of Royal Horse Artillery wearing mirliton bonnets of red with black 'wing' edged in gold for the Officer and yellow for the Private. In both cases the plumes are white and both wear sabretaches. Another drawing by H. Alken shows an RHA Officer of this period wearing a mirliton bonnet and sabretache.



RHA jacket with pointed tails, fashionable in 1808.



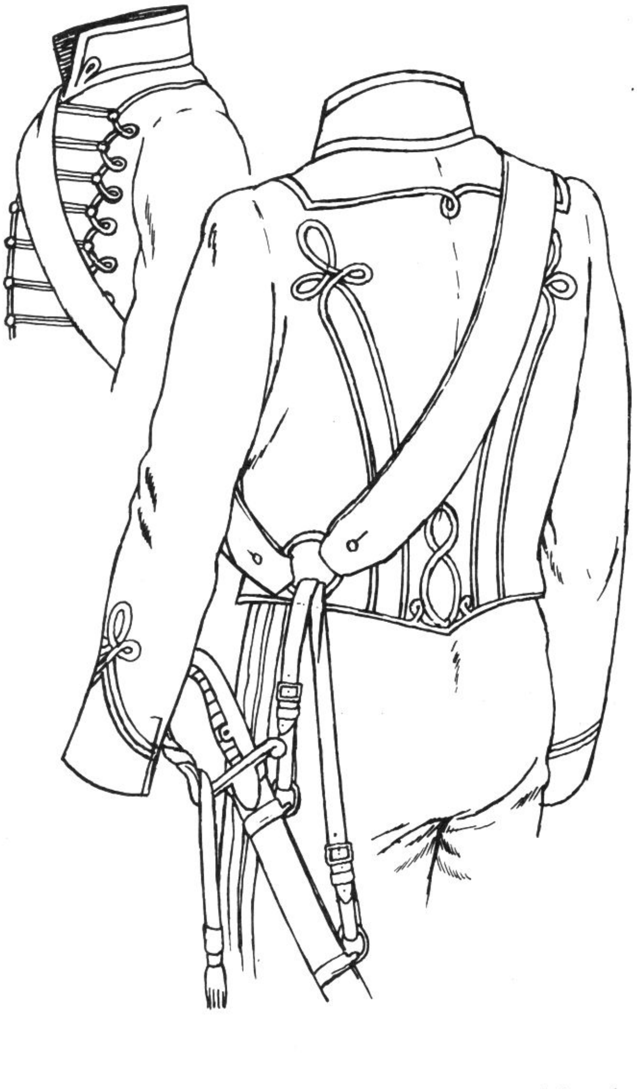
Fatigue cap of Horse Artillery, 1800. Blue, edged red with red lacing.

JACKETS

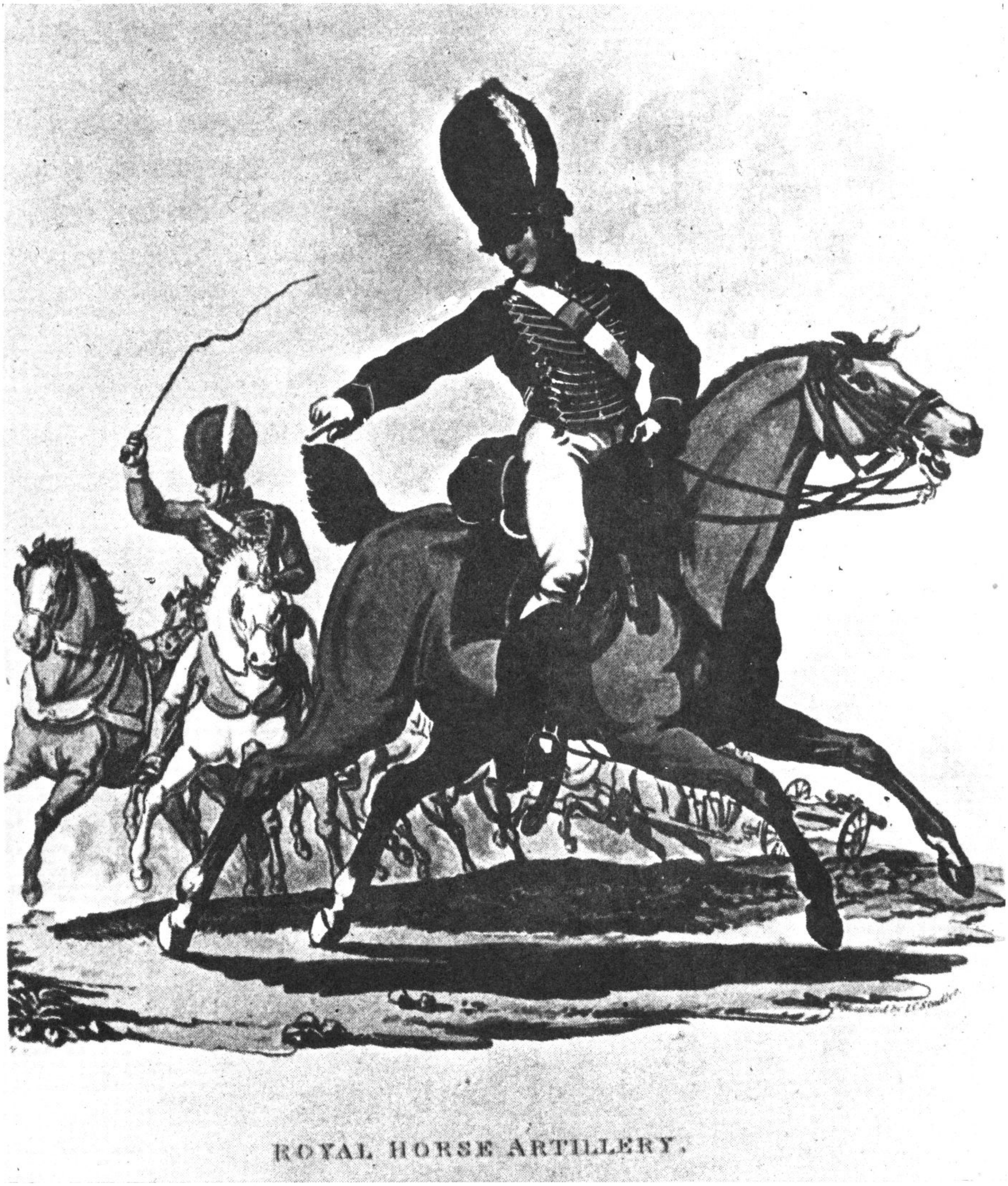
About 1799 the open coat of the Horse Artillery was replaced by a short, tight single-breasted jacket of blue cloth with small pointed scarlet cuffs and a scarlet collar $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. It was decorated with flat gold lace $\frac{3}{16}$ inch wide which was stitched all around the edge ending in a loop and 'crows-foot' at the rear centre of the jacket. The lace was also worked across the chest in twenty-four loops, although this number varied. The chest looping shortened towards the waist. The scarlet collar was edged in lace within which was a second lace in a figured pattern. The cuffs were similarly decorated with two lines of figured lace.

A row of gilt ball buttons fastened the jacket down the centre front with another row on each side of the chest. The buttons were stamped with a garter enclosing the words 'ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY'. On each side of the jacket was a false pocket edged in lace with a 'crows-foot' at each end. Each seam on the back was laced with a 'crows-foot' at the top and an Austrian knot at the bottom.

The flat lace was replaced in 1806 by one of round gilt cord and for a period around 1808 short skirts were added below the waist of the jacket. These had been abandoned by the time of Waterloo. Mercer writes that fashion once again dictated the style of the uniform jacket. Lace varied from completely covering the chest to a sparse half-dozen loops. It was the fashion to



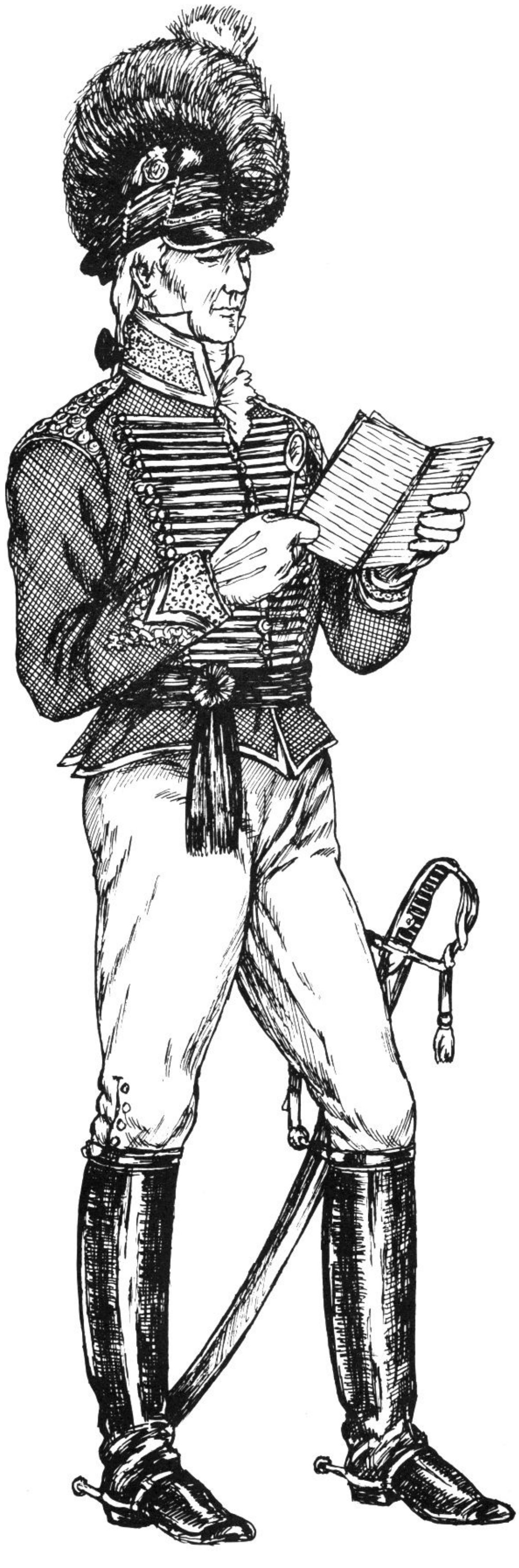
Gunners jacket RHA, 1814. Blue jacket with red collar and cuffs and yellow lace and buttons.


ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY.

In this Hamilton Smith print of the Royal Horse Artillery, the holster cover is of black fur and the saddle cloth blue with a red edge. The blue jacket is laced yellow and has red collar and cuffs.

pad out the chest of the jacket and wear the sash high up on the waist to shorten the chest.

The jackets of the horse gunners were similar to those of the officers but with simpler lacing of yellow worsted and with none of the eccentricities of fashion. The drivers of the Royal Horse Artillery wore the crested helmet and legwear of the gunners but not the frogged jacket. Their garment was a coatee like that worn by the Foot Artillery with round cuffs and looped button-holes.



Officer of the Royal Horse Artillery 1808 (after a description by Mercer). For a short time around 1808 the jacket had short skirts and shoulder wings of interwoven metal rings. The boots are close-fitting, fastened behind the knee with straps and buckles. The rose and fringe on the crimson sash was fastened on with a flat steel hook.

THE PELISSE

This overjacket was copied from that worn by Hussars of the period. It was introduced for Artillery Officers about 1805 although not authorised until 1808. The first models were edged in brown fur but later types had grey astrakhan edging and were more richly braided and laced in gilt. For ordinary duties Officers of Horse Artillery were, in 1812, ordered to wear a 'short surtout' which could be worn as a pelisse on service.

FOOT AND HORSE ARTILLERY

LEGWEAR

This section deals with legwear worn by both Foot and Horse Artillery as many of the garments were the same or very similar for both.

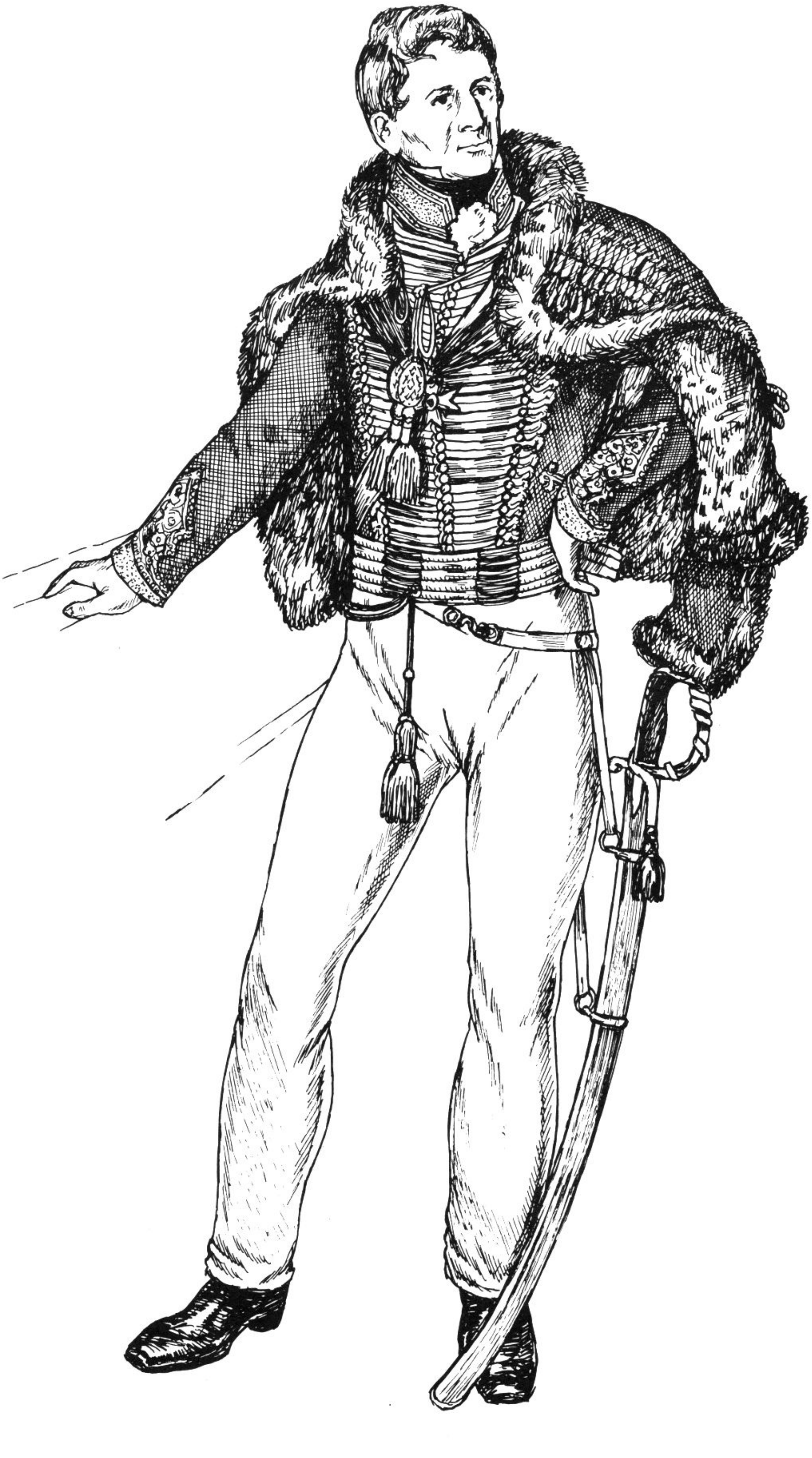
In 1799 Officers had two types of breeches, one pair of doe or buckskin which were pipeclayed for parades and a pair of white kerseymere which fastened at the knee with a buckle and four small buttons. They were worn with long boots. These two types of breeches were in use for most duties until about 1802 when dark blue cloth pantaloons made an appearance. Mercer states that Horse Artillery Officers wore these for undress parades and the same for full dress with the addition of gold lace leg stripes and decorative thigh ornaments.

In 1803 white leather breeches were worn for full dress on guard and Sundays. White kerseymere knee breeches at balls and levees and blue pantaloons with boots for garrison duty and in the field.

For marching order the RHA wore blue cloth overalls reinforced on the inside leg with black leather and booted on the lower leg with the same. These had angled pockets on the thighs and were worn over the pantaloons. The overalls were fastened by buttons up the outside of each leg. The stirrup chains worn under the foot while riding were hung across the back of the calf for walking out. Tight breeches of blue or white stocking net were worn for dress and foot parades.

About 1806 breeches and long boots were discarded in favour of leather pantaloons and Hessian boots and overalls were cut in the style of pantaloons. They underwent a number of colour changes from 'pepper and salt' to various shades of grey.

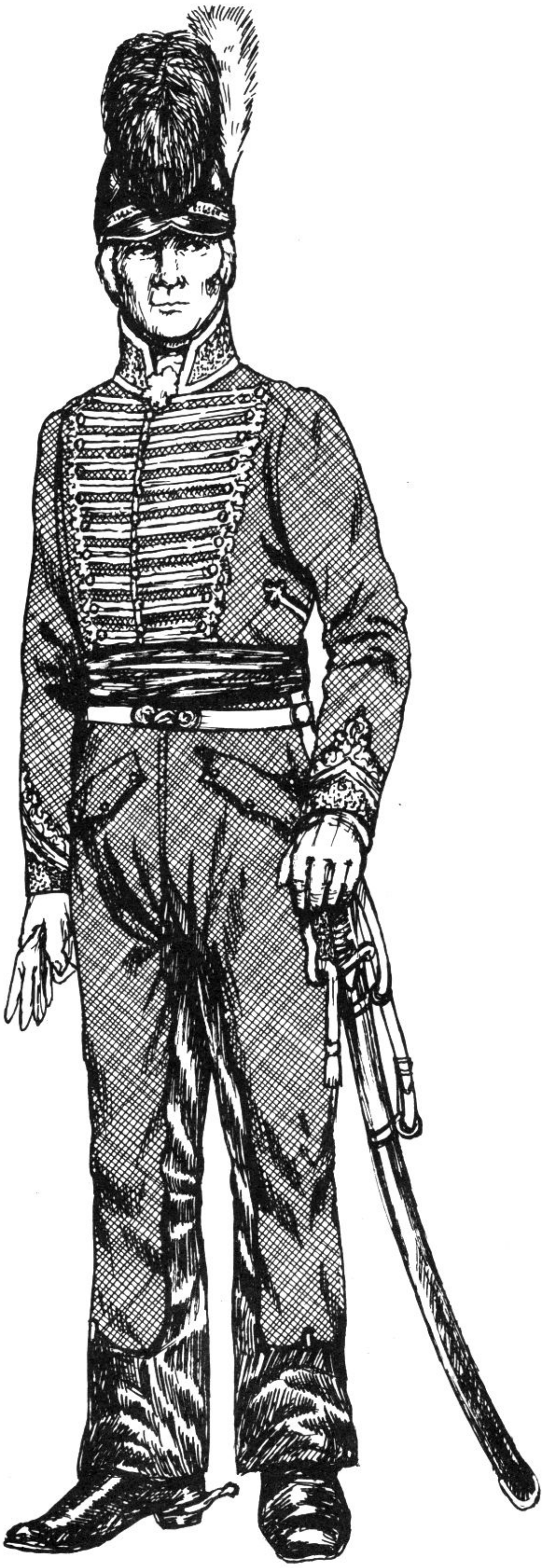
About 1810 the black leather reinforcing was changed to brown and the deep booting reduced to about 4 inches. A red stripe up the outside leg under the fastening buttons was also introduced. The overalls took on a purplish grey appearance about 1815.



Senior officer wearing fur-lined pelisse. This drawing was made from a portrait of Colonel Sir Augustus Frazer. The painting dates from about 1830 but gives a good impression of the costume worn at the time of Waterloo. Although the dolman has gold lacing the frogging on the pelisse is black. The trousers are white (introduced about 1824). The sword belt and knot are white but the tassel is gold.

By 1812 Officers of both Foot and Horse Artillery wore white leather pantaloons for parade dress and grey overalls for ordinary duties and on the march.

In 1815 RHA other ranks wore white breeches for mounted duty. The men of the Rocket Troop wore light blue-grey overalls with a 10-inch band of brown leather around the bottoms and a strip of red cloth down the outside seam of the leg. Foot Artillerymen in full dress wore white breeches with knee-length black gaiters but on service grey trousers were worn with calf-length gaiters either over or under the trousers.



RHA officer in marching order 1806. Blue pantaloons with cross pockets and heavily booted in leather.

FOOTWEAR

The Hessian or Hussar boot was introduced for Officers about 1798, replacing the long jack boot previously worn. The Hessian had a black tassel and binding around the top until 1812 when this was altered to gold. By 1815, Officers of Foot Artillery wore Hessian boots with white binding and tassel.

About 1807, rank and file Foot Artillery were issued with two types of gaiter. One was knee length and was worn for parades, the other was a half gaiter for service wear. Both had square cut tops and fastened up the outside of the leg with black buttons.

Officers of Foot Artillery in 1812 wore with grey pantaloons or overalls either half boots or shoes and gaiters.

Mercer mentions many types of individual boot affected by the fashionable young Officers of his day. Among these was a knee-length boot with a square cut top and a small buckle and strap behind the leg and a soft half boot which sloped up to a point behind the knee and had a stitched seam down the back. High heels were fashionable.

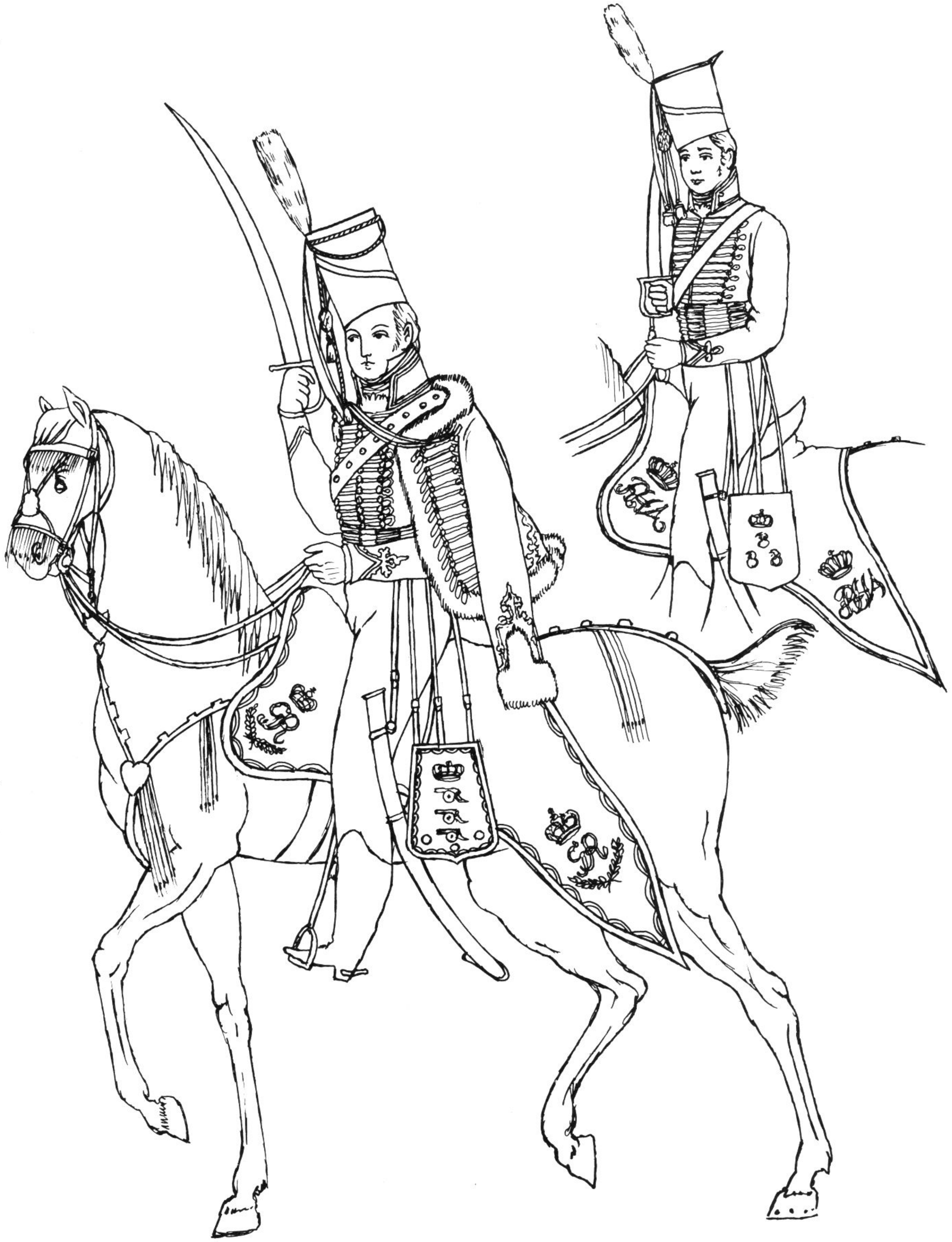
SPURS

Mercer also mentions the variety of spur styles. He writes of Officers of Field rank wearing silver spurs with short curved necks and spiked rowels. These had flat branches which were attached to the fastening straps by silver chains. Horse Artillerymen wore a long straight spur with spiked rowel, the Officers having the same but plated in silver. About 1806 curved neck spurs were screwed directly to the heel of the boot. The year 1807 saw the fashionable Officer's spur as being small with straight, cocked up, necks and made of blued steel.

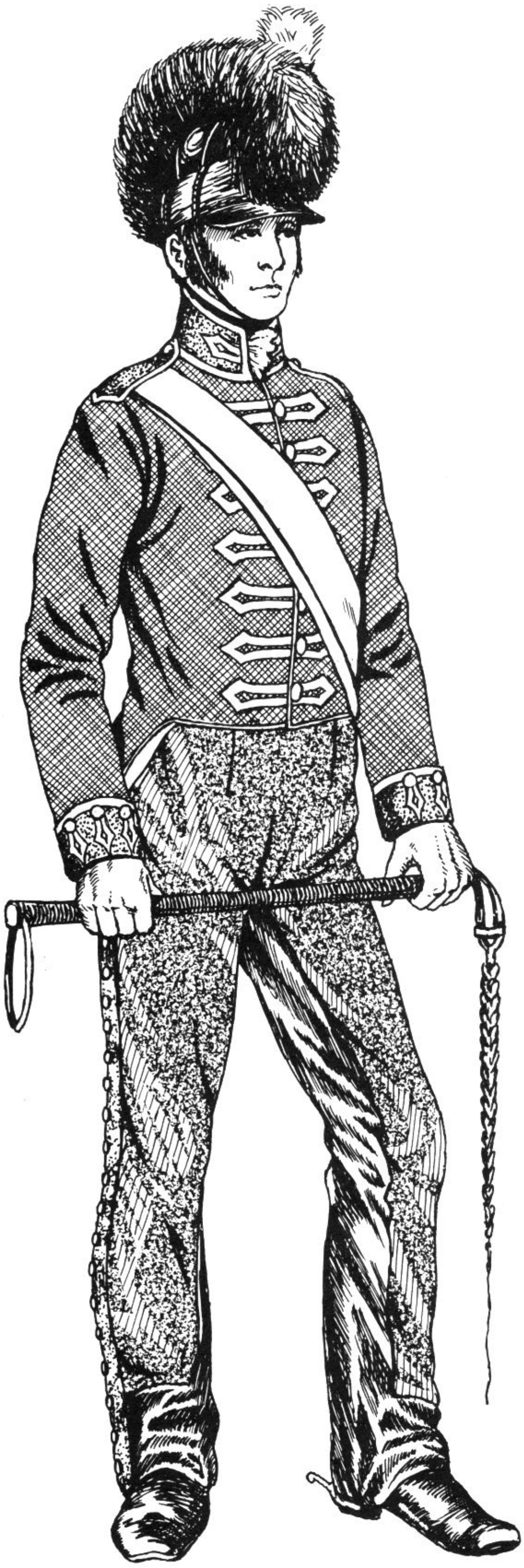
SASHES

Officers of Foot Artillery wore a sash of crimson silk net about 7 feet in length. The ends had tassel fringes 10 inches deep. The sash was wrapped around the waist and knotted on the left hip.

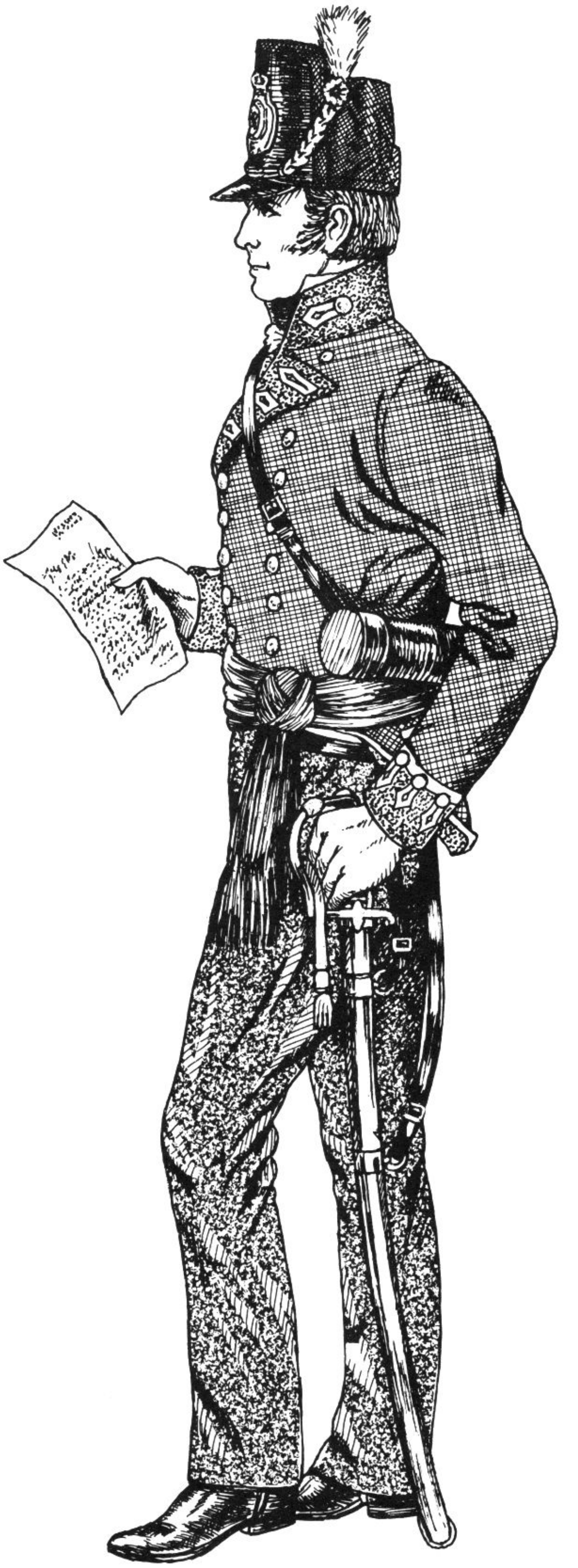
A crimson net sash was also worn by Horse Artillery Officers. The early type had a large rosette from which hung the fringed ends. This was replaced by a type similar to that worn by light infantry Officers – crimson silk net with silk cords and 'bell-rope' tassels. In the Horse Artillery about 1810, the net sash was replaced by a barrel sash of gilt wire and crimson silk like that worn by Hussars. The sash fastened around the waist by crimson cords with gilt slides and tassels.



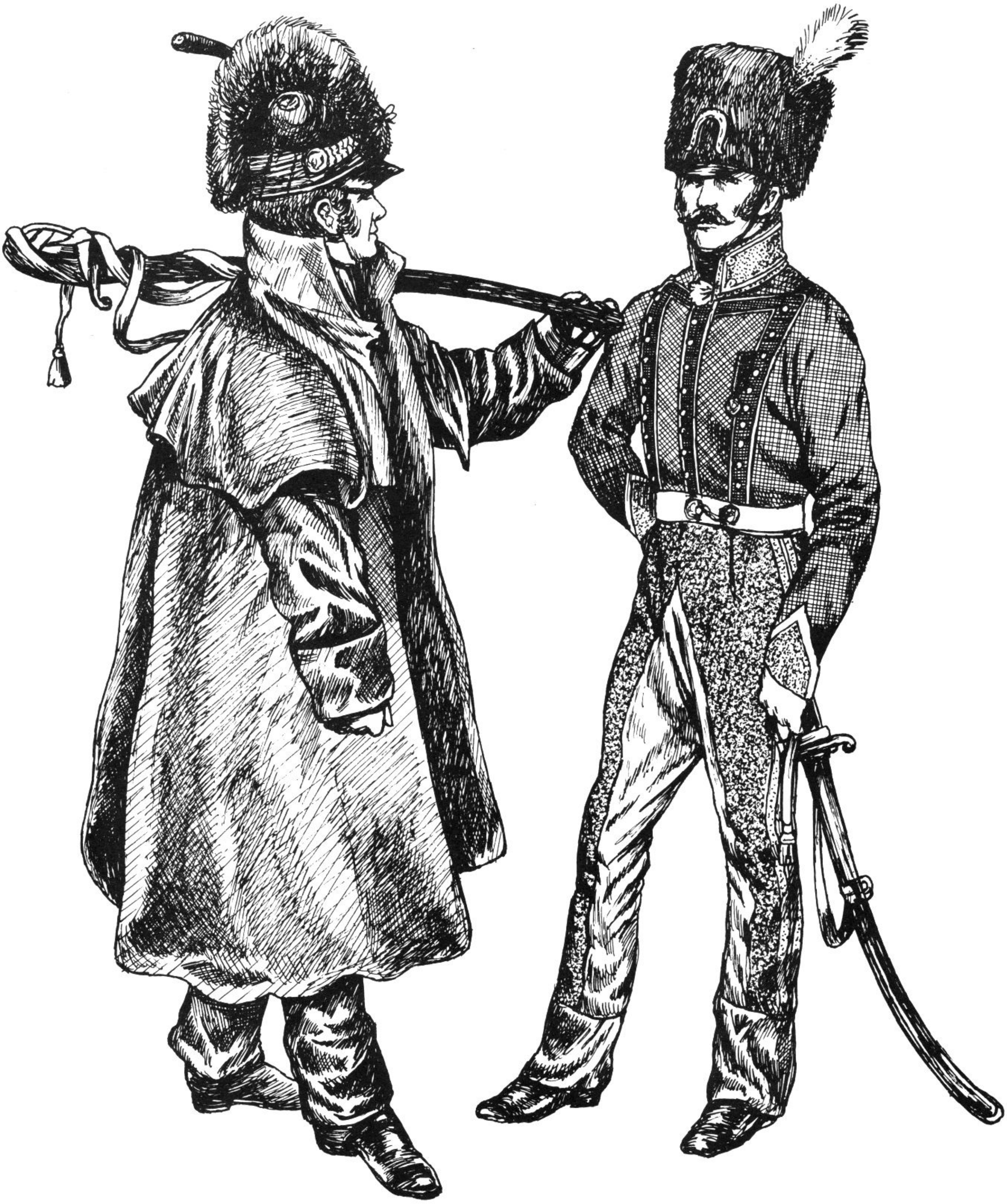
Officer and private [sic] *of the Royal Horse Artillery* circa 1810 *(after paintings by an unknown artist), the uniform is blue with red facings and gold lace, the mirliton bonnet is red with a black wing and gold lace. Sabretache red trimmed gold. Shabraque blue. Private is similarly dressed with yellow lace in place of gold and a black sabretache with brass crown and grenades. The private's horse harness is without 'whisks'.*



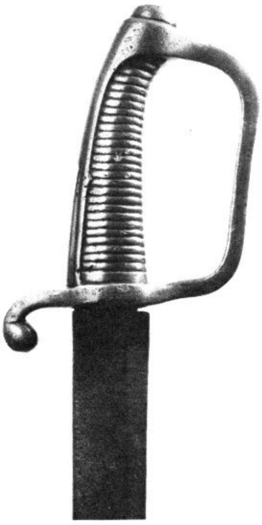
Driver of the Royal Horse Artillery, 1815.



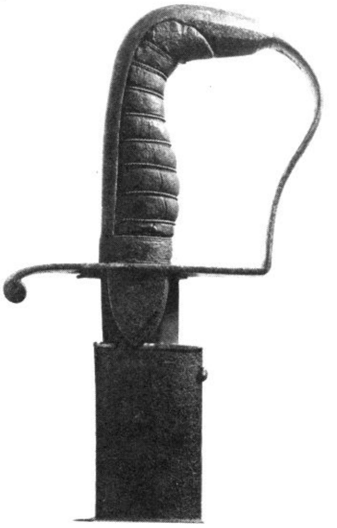
Officer of Foot Artillery in Field Service Dress, 1815.



Driver and farrier. Royal Artillery drivers, 1815. (after Sauerweid) The cloak is grey and the helmet turban blue. The overalls have tan turn-ups and strappings. The farrier wears a blue jacket with scarlet collar and cuffs laced gold and a chest frame of dark blue piped yellow. His grey overalls have red stripes and the busby of brown fur has a white horseshoe device and a white over red plume. The drivers plume is cased.



Left: *Foot Artillery Hanger 1815. A brass-hilted weapon with a curved blade 23½ inches in length. The scabbard would be leather with brass mounts. This specimen may have been damaged as the stirrup hilt is usually shown as round rather than straight.*
(*Author's collection*)



Right: *Stirrup-hilted sabre. A 1796 pattern. This sword was used by the Royal Horse Artillery throughout the Napoleonic Wars. The curved blade is 32½ inches in length and the hilt and scabbard are steel. Some models have lugs from the back-piece screwed to the grip.*
(*Author's collection*)

SWORD BELTS

In 1800, Foot Artillery Officers carried the sword on the left hip from a whitened buff leather shoulder belt with gilt plate. By 1815 the shoulder belt had been replaced by a black leather waist belt with slings which was worn beneath the coat. However, the white shoulder belt was still in evidence, usually in service dress.

Royal Horse Artillery Officers changed from shoulder to white waist belt and slings when they adopted the short frogged jacket in place of the coat.

OTHER RANKS BELTS

From 1800 gunners of Foot Artillery wore white cross belts; that over the right shoulder carried the bayonet on the left hip while the other held a white leather pouch on the right. This second belt carried, on the front of the chest, a pair of loops containing two brass vent pickers. Along the centre of the belt was a red cord holding a small brass powder horn over the pouch. The cord and horn were withdrawn after 1815. The pouch flap bore a brass crown badge on a red cloth patch.

Horse Artillery gunners and NCOs wore the sabre from slings on a whitened belt over the right shoulder. Men of the Rocket Troop wore a white belt with black pouch over the left shoulder with the sword on a white waist belt. Officers of RHA wore the sword from slings on a waist belt. Sergeants of Foot Artillery wore only one belt, over the right shoulder, carrying the short stirrup hilted sword on the left hip.

OFFICERS' SWORDS

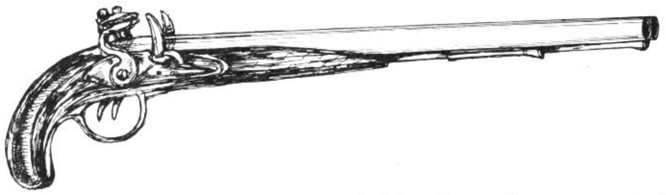
According to Mercer the regulation infantry sword issued to Foot Artillery Officers at the close of the eighteenth century was greatly disliked. Away from headquarters, Officers wore dirks in place of it.

Horse Artillery Officers had both a large regulation sabre and a small undress model with a severe curve to it. It was fashionable to allow the scabbard to trail along the ground. Sword knots were gilt and crimson silk interwoven for full dress and white leather for field duty. Officers above field rank wore swords of personal choice on service, the Mameluke scimitar being very popular. Contemporary prints show Foot Artillery Officers as well as Horse wearing the heavy curved sabre of Light Dragoon pattern with single bar stirrup hilt.

OTHER RANKS WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

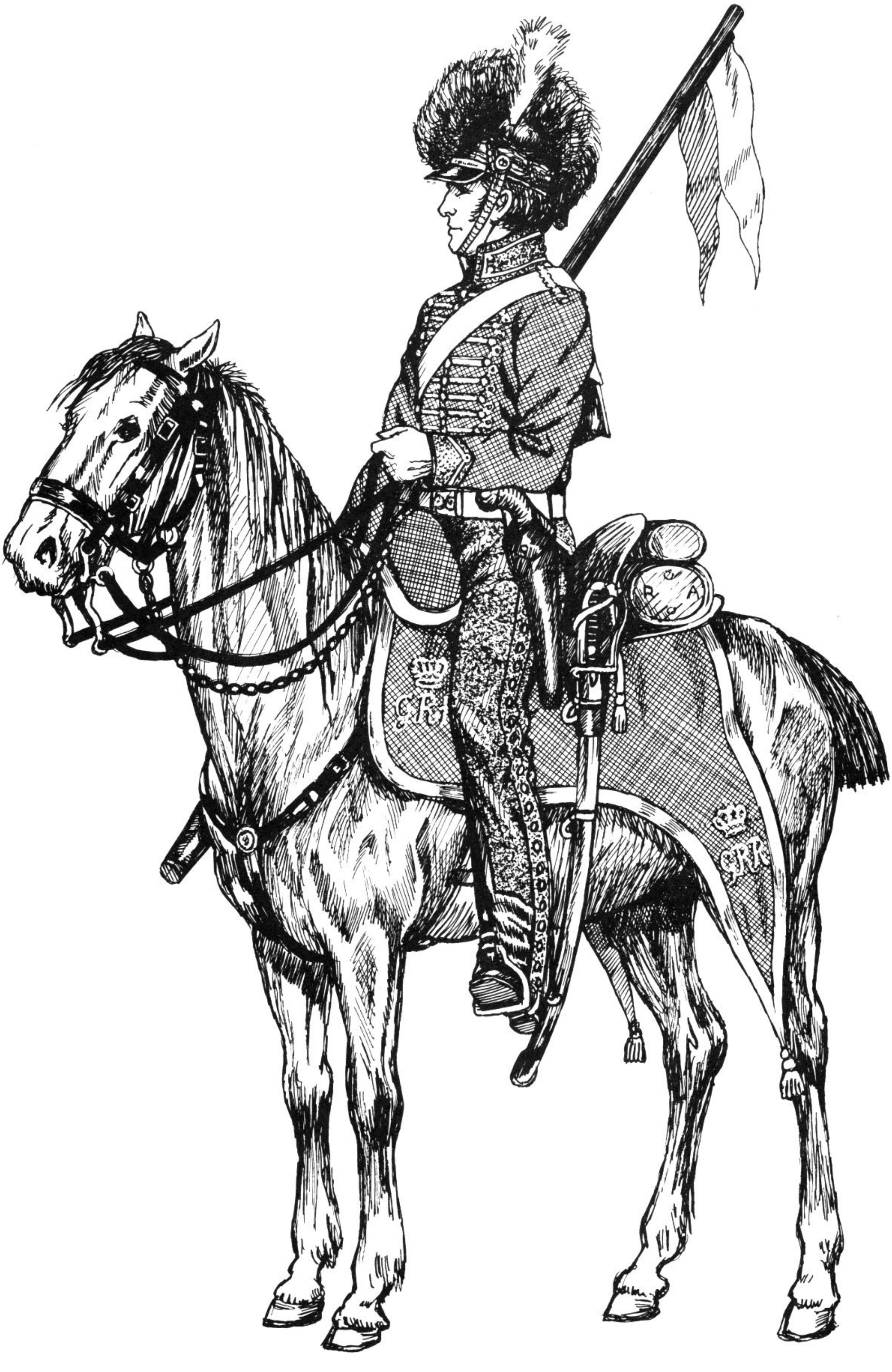
Foot Sergeants were equipped with halberds, a pole weapon about 9 feet in length, for use on parade, and a short brass-hilted curved sword. Foot Gunners carried the Brown Bess musket and bayonet. A Hamilton Smyth print shows a Foot Gunner in 1814 with no rank markings, wearing a short brass-hilted sword from a shoulder belt, but other sources show only sergeants carrying the short sword, Gunners having bayonet only. Horse Gunners were armed with the heavy, Light Dragoon type sabre, slightly larger than that of the Officers.

Men of the Rocket Troop, when mounted, carried the sabre in a frog behind the saddle. The waist belt then carried a brown leather holster with button flap holding a double-barrel side-by-side pistol. The weapon had browned barrels, one rifled and one smoothbore, a walnut stock and folding sight. It could be fitted with a detachable stock to produce a shoulder weapon.

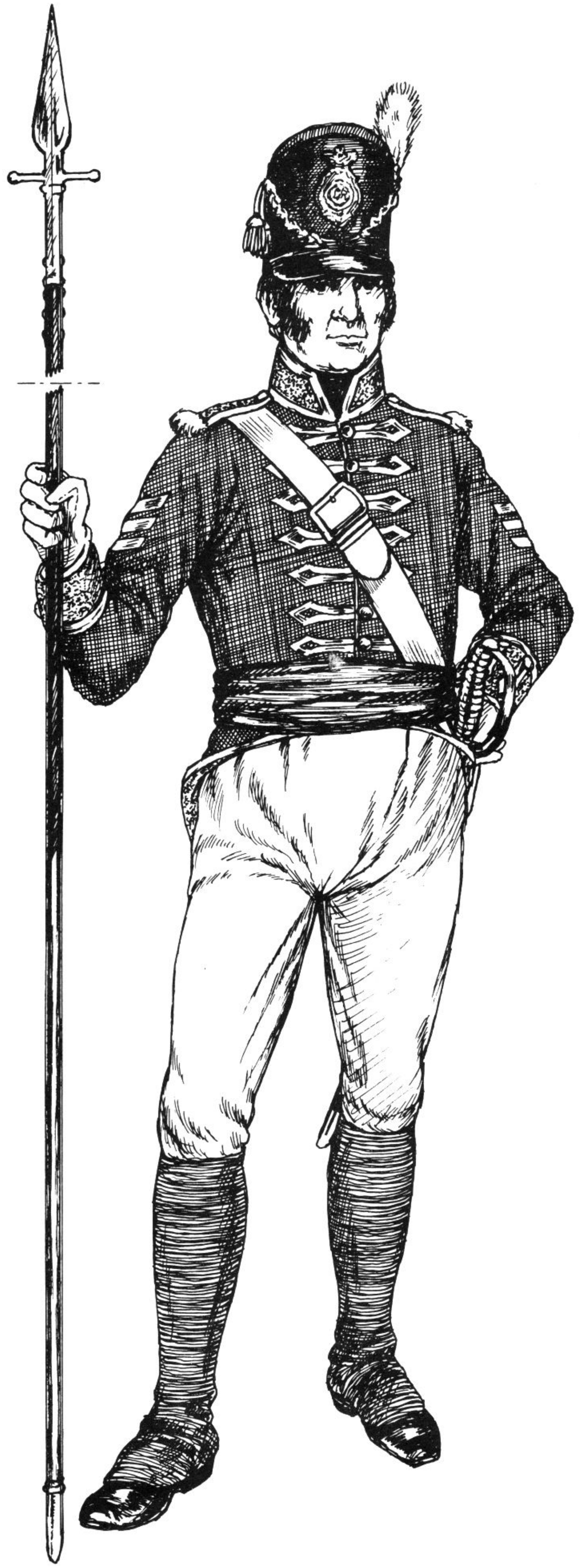


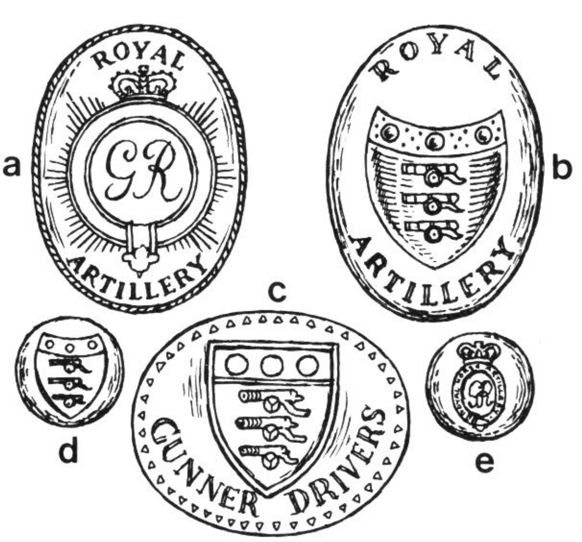
The double-barrelled pistol carried by the rocket troopers of the Royal Horse Artillery. One barrel was rifled and the other smooth bore. A detachable stock could be fitted to form a carbine.

Foot Artillerymen were equipped with the same marching equipment as the Infantry. This consisted of a canvas haversack on a wide shoulder belt, a wooden-barrel water canteen bound with iron hoops held on a shoulder-strap, and a knapsack of canvas with leather straps to which could be attached the rolled overcoat or blanket and the mess tin. The knapsack often had the corps identification painted on the flap. Dighton shows a gunner's knapsack in 1812 marked with a crown over RA in black on natural leather, and another in 1813 of yellow RA on a leather knapsack.



Rocket corps trooper of the RHA. The shabraque is blue with yellow trim. The pocket heads are carried beneath the front of the shabraque and the sticks are tied together and held in a stirrup bucket. The white over light-blue pennon was carried at Leipzig but not at Waterloo. Only one trooper in three carried the small launching trough in a small leather case above the valise (shown here); uniform is blue with red facing and yellow lace. Overalls grey with red stripes and leather booting. The helmit turban is blue and the plume white.





(a) *Officers belt plate 1780 to 1820 – gilt and enamels.*
(b) *Other ranks belt plate 1790 to 1805 – brass.*
(c) *Royal Artillery drivers belt plate – peninsular war – brass.*
(d) *RA button 1790 to 1802 – officers gilt, other ranks pewter.*
(e) *RHA button 1802 to 1855. The foot artillery wore a similar button with the word 'horse' omitted.*

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

In 1802 a new system of distinctions was introduced for NCO ranks. The lace or worsted epaulette markings were abandoned in favour of one using narrow sleeve chevrons on the upper arm, initially on the right arm only. The chevrons were of yellow cloth. The ranks were distinguished as follows:

Sergeant-Majors and Quarter Master Sergeants	4 bars
Sergeants	3 bars
Corporals	2 bars

The rank of Company Sergeant was introduced in the Artillery in September 1813. It was equal to Colour Sergeant in the Infantry and often referred to as such. The badge for a Company Sergeant was a Regimental Colour supported by two swords above the chevrons. In 1815 the badge was worn on the right arm only with three chevrons also on the left arm. Also in 1815 Sergeants wore their three chevrons on each upper arm, corporals wore two and bombardiers one.

Left: *Sergeant of Foot Artillery in full dress 1815. Until 1802 sergeants were distinguished by two gold lace shoulder knots, corporals by two of yellow worsted and bombardiers by one of yellow worsted. The year 1802 saw the introduction of chevrons – three gold for sergeants, two yellow for corporals and one yellow for bombardiers. At first worn on the right arm only. The chevrons were worn on both arms in 1815. The sergeants coat lace is gold and his sash crimson. The pike or sergeants spontoon was 9 feet in length.*

NCOs of Horse Artillery also wore sleeve chevrons. Denis Dighton shows a sergeant of 1814 also wearing a crimson waist sash as well as three separate yellow chevrons on the left arm, so presumably the wearing of rank markings on both arms was in vogue before 1815. However, Dighton shows another sergeant and corporal with chevrons on the left arms only.

BUTTONS

From 1802 to about 1820 Officers of Foot Artillery wore gilt convex buttons bearing a garter enclosing the words 'ROYAL REGT. OF ARTILLERY' and surmounted by a crown. Within the garter was the Royal cypher. Other ranks wore similar buttons of bronze. Earlier buttons bore a design of three cannon balls below which were three cannons on a shield.

From 1811 the Royal Horse Artillery wore a gilt ball button with a similar garter device. The inscription on these read 'ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY' or 'ARTIL'. Men wore the same in yellow metal.

MUSICIANS

At the beginning of the nineteenth century musicians of Foot Artillery probably followed the practice of the Infantry and reversed the colours of coat and facings, ie red coat faced blue.

About 1805 a white coatee was adopted for the musicians. It had blue collar, cuffs, turnbacks and pockets. It was decorated on collar edges, pockets, turnbacks and cuffs with flat yellow silk lace. On each side of the chest were seven blue bows mounted on scarlet and edged with yellow silk lace. In the centre of each bow was a tassel of red, yellow and blue silk. The pockets on the short coat tails bore three buttons each frogged with yellow lace. The buttons were gilt. The collar had on each side a gilt button on a frogged ornament. The edges on the coat and coat tails were edged in yellow lace. The cuffs had three buttons with frogged ornaments and a yellow lace edging. The coat had two epaulettes of yellow silk on blue cloth with fine wire fringe covered in yellow silk. This description of the coat is from one James Lawson who served in the band from 1839 to 1858.

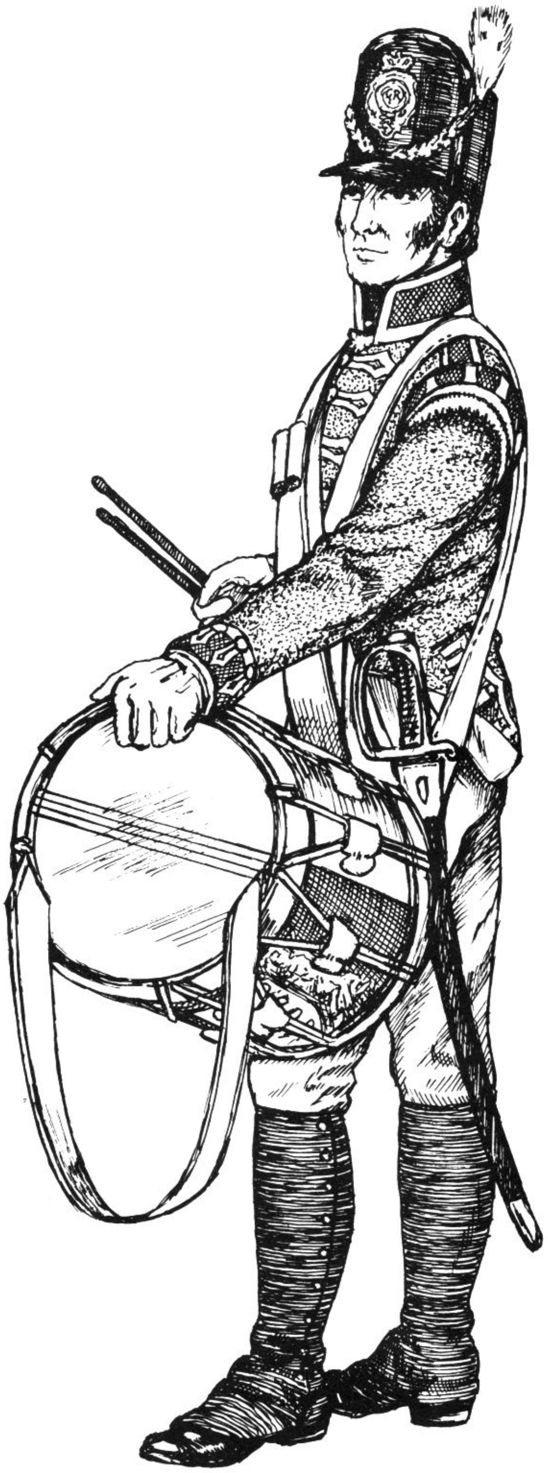
Breeches were white, worn with black gaiters. At first the stove-pipe shako with a short scarlet plume in front was worn but this was replaced by the Waterloo shako with the scarlet plume on the left side. A small rapier type sword in a leather scabbard was carried from a waistbelt of black leather worn beneath the coat.

Cecil Lawson shows a much simpler dress for musicians than that described by his namesake. He shows the white coat as having blue collar, cuffs, pockets and shoulder-straps but all simply laced in yellow like the coat of the gunners. He gives the turnbacks as white. His drummer's coat has the addition of blue shoulder wings laced yellow.

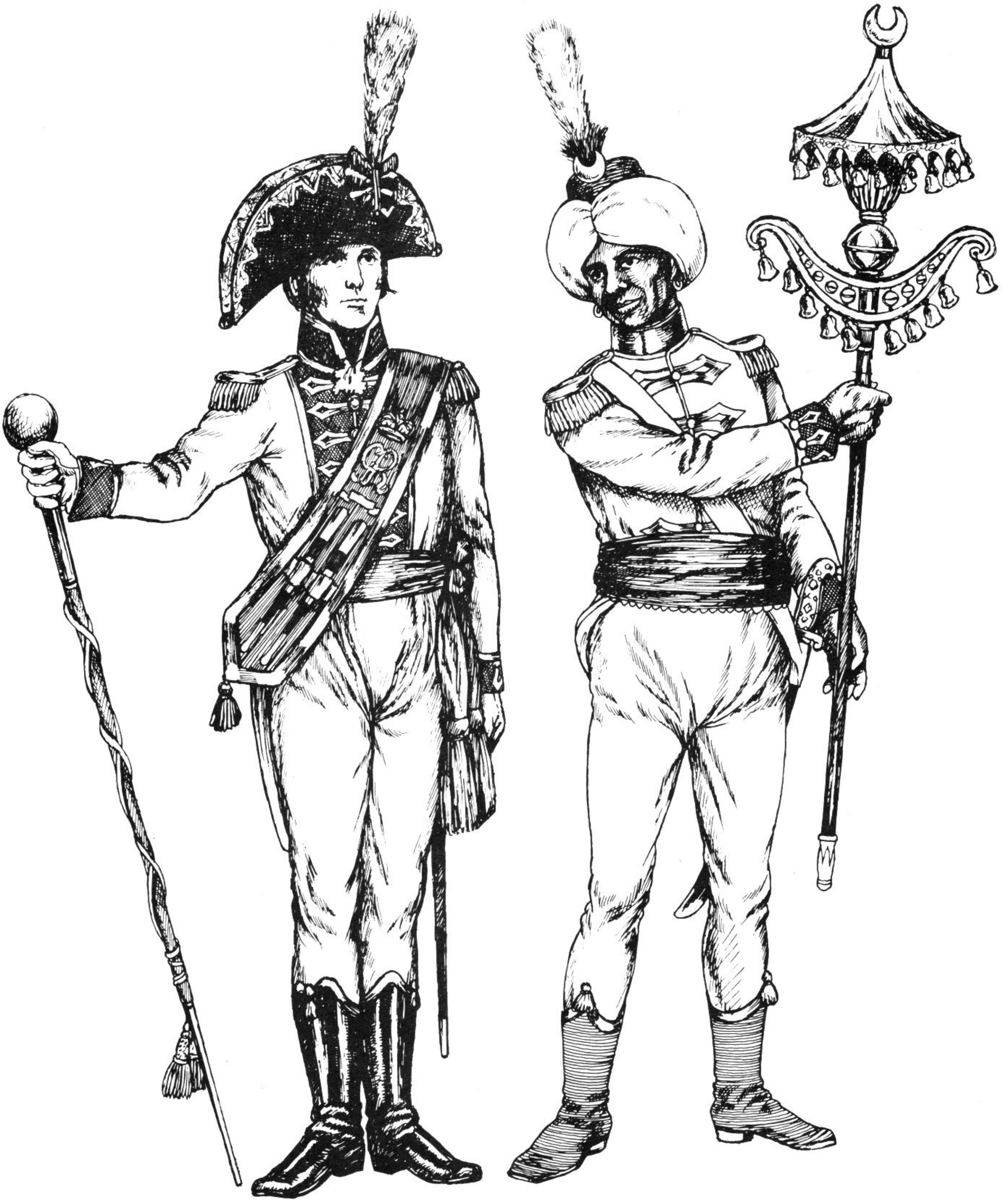
The Band Master wore a similar coat to that described by James Lawson but with long tails and gilt lace in place of yellow. He wore Hessian boots with gold tassels and trim and a sideways cocked hat laced gold with a tall scarlet feather. Drum and Fife Majors also wore cocked hats.

About 1811, following the fashion of the rest of the Army, Negro percussionists were employed by the Artillery. In addition to the usual decorative coatees they wore feathered white turbans, ornate half boots or gaiters, large sashes and jewelled swords or dirks.

Up to 1797, each Troop of Horse Artillery had two drummers. These were issued with bugle horns and acted as orderlies. After this date they were given trumpets and titled 'Trumpeters'.



Drummer of foot artillery, 1815, with reversed coat of red with blue collar. Cuffs and shoulder wings, lace yellow.

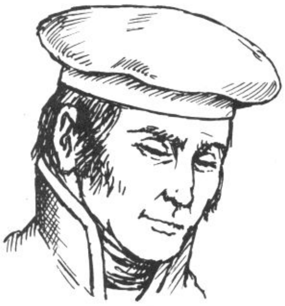


Drum Major and Negro Musician of the Royal Artillery 1815 (based on contemporary descriptions and drawings by the late Cecil Lawson). The uniforms of both are white with blue facings and gold lace. The Drum Major's plume is scarlet and that of the bandsman white. The latter wears a decorative metal collar. He carried a 'jingling Johnnie' and wears a short curved scimitar. The Drum Major's shoulder belt is red with gold lace and fittings.

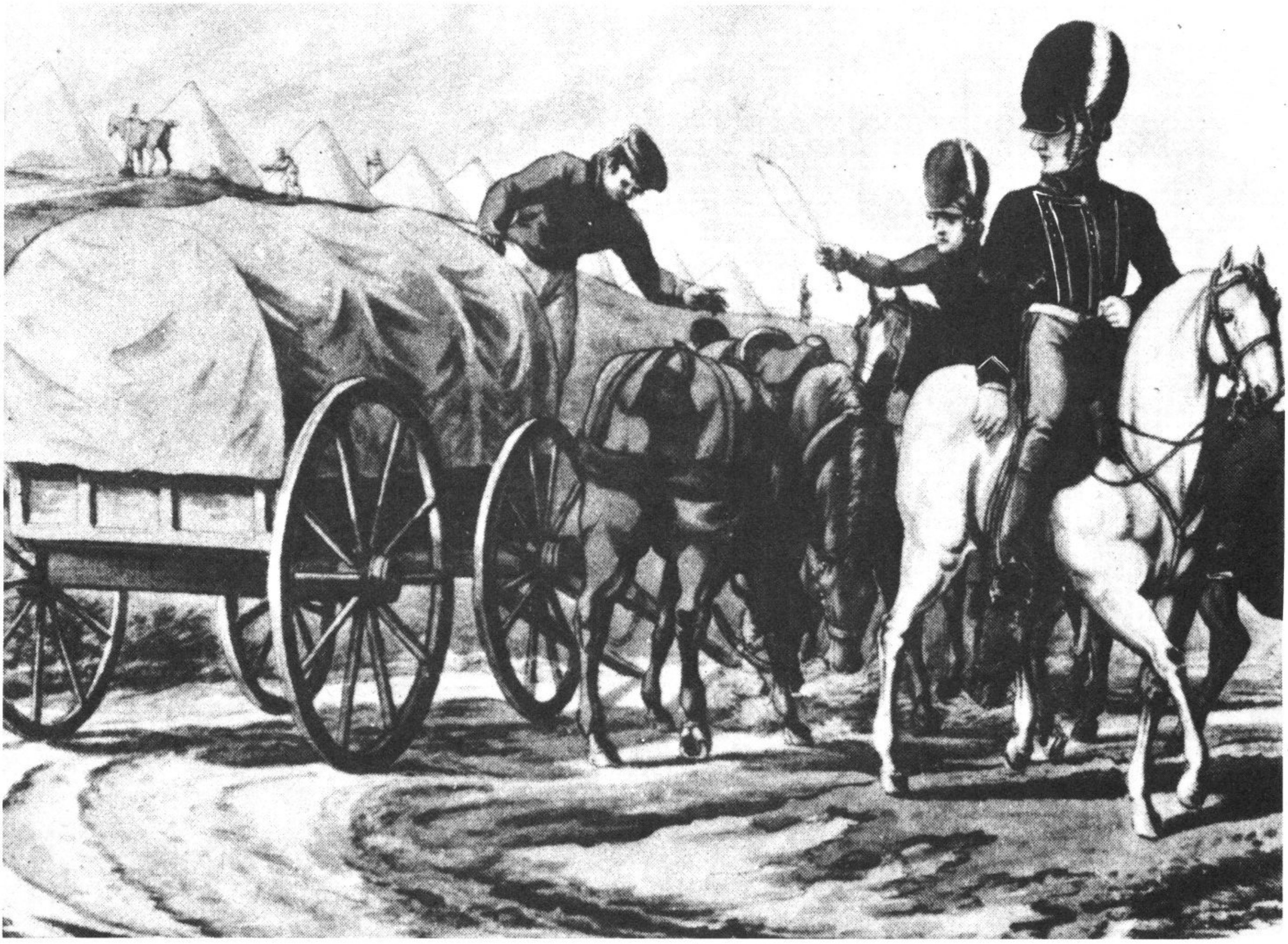
THE CORPS OF ARTILLERY DRIVERS

The Corps of Drivers furnished the men who moved the guns and supplied the ammunition for the Foot Artillery. Illustrations of drivers of 1806 show a blue waist-length jacket with red collar and round cuffs. The front of the jacket had three rows of buttons from neck to waist, with twelve buttons in each. One cap worn with this jacket was a small peaked cap of black leather with a pointed false front and a small leather visor. On the front was painted the letters CDRA (Corps Drivers Royal Artillery). Another print shows a driver in this undress type of jacket with a 'dinner plate' cap of dark blue with a red band.

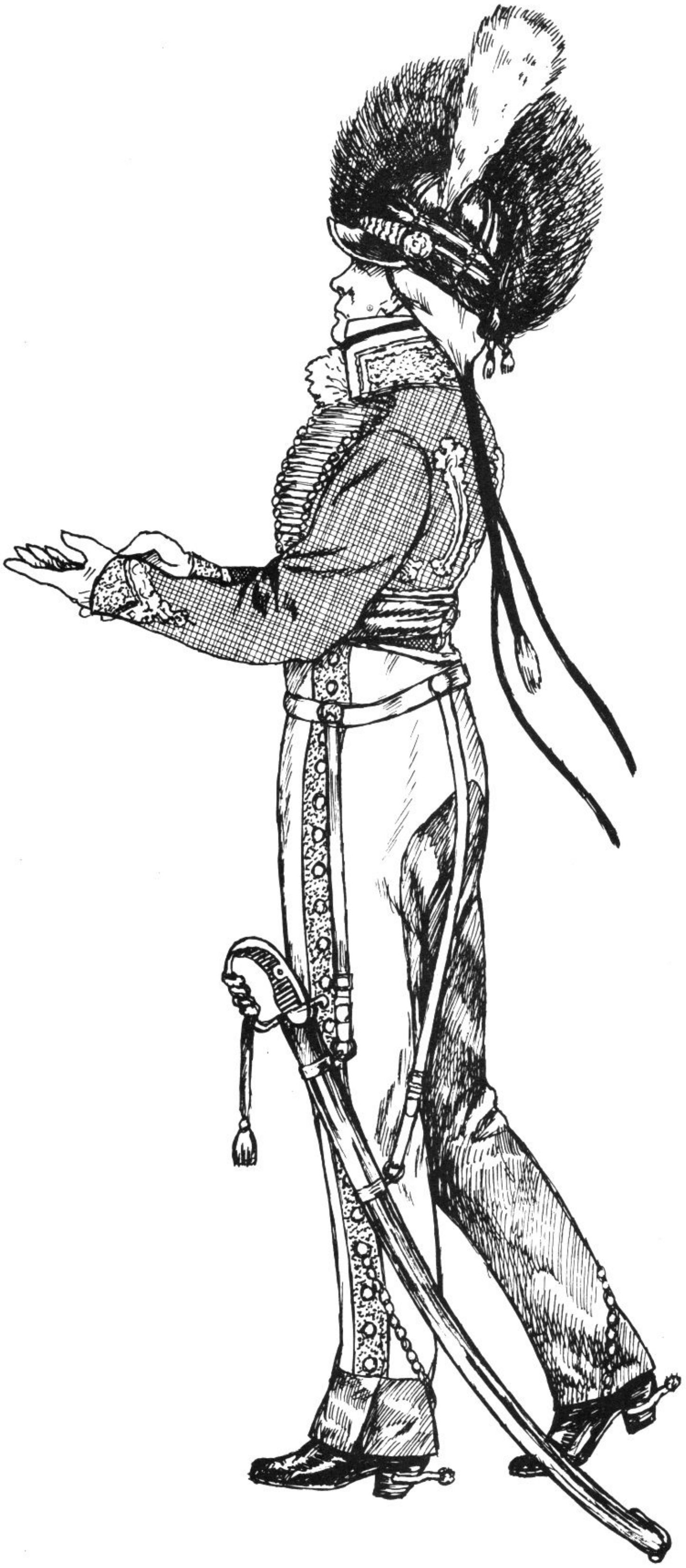
Later the Corps wore a blue jacket with red collar and pointed cuffs trimmed in yellow braid. It had a plastron style front formed with three strips of dark blue cloth piped in yellow with rows of yellow buttons on each. The Corps of Drivers wore a fur-crested helmet with a white plume and dark blue turban rather than the black turban of the gunners (Mercer). Overalls are usually shown as grey with a double stripe of red down the outside leg.



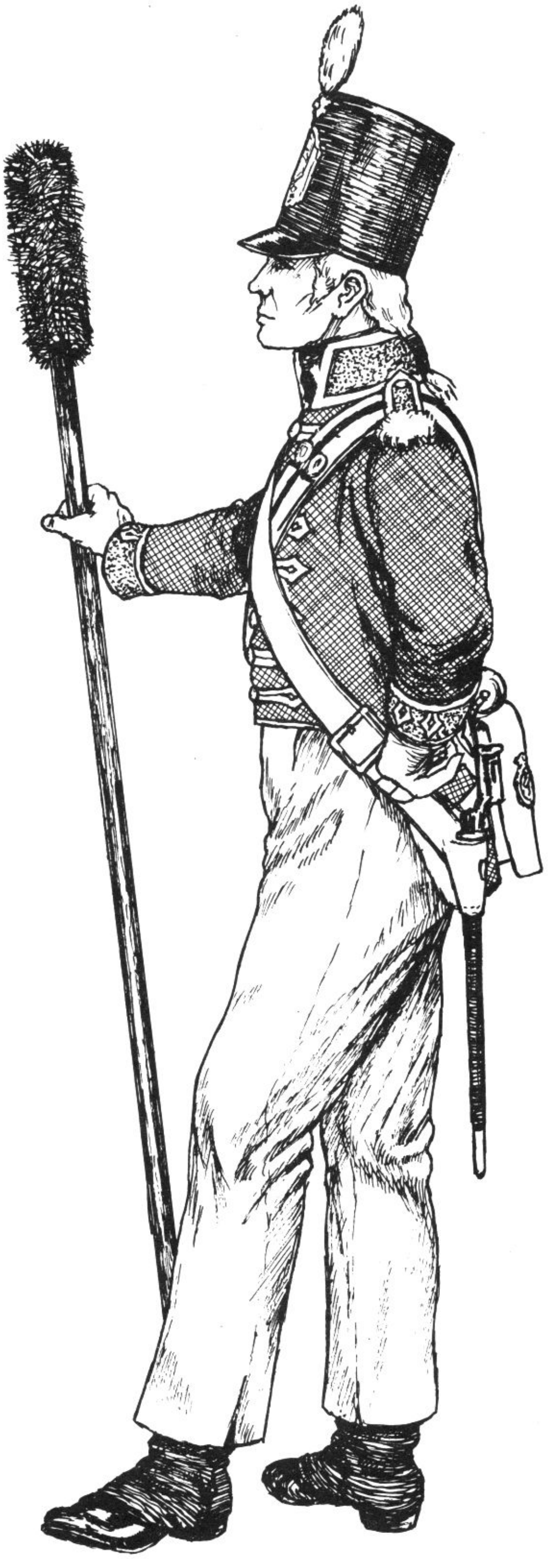
Undress cap corps of drivers, 1812 – blue with red band.



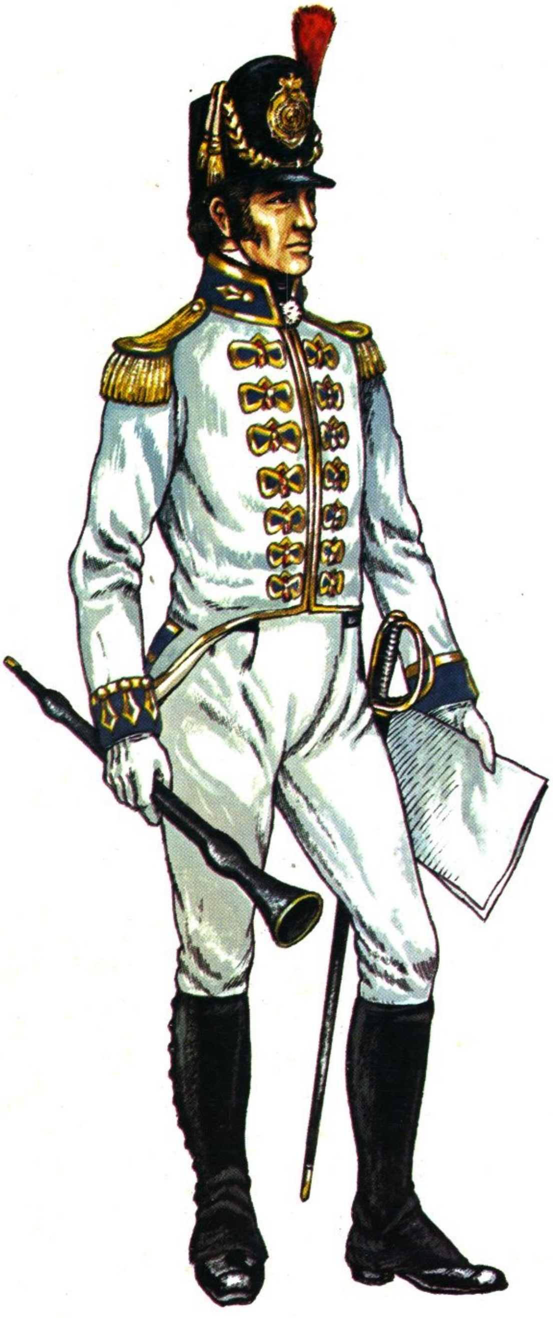
A contemporary print of the Corps of Artillery drivers. The leading figure wears the plastron-fronted jacket shown in detail on the farrier of the corps elsewhere in this book.



Dandy officer of RHA 1802. Mercer records that exaggeration was much in evidence with padded jackets, false hair queues with streamers and often small wheels on the scabbard to trail the sword along the ground.

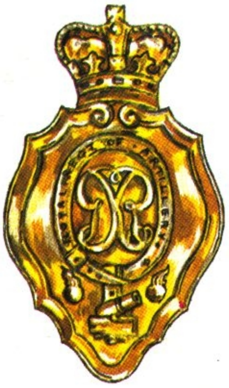


Gunner of foot artillery, 1806, wearing white overalls.

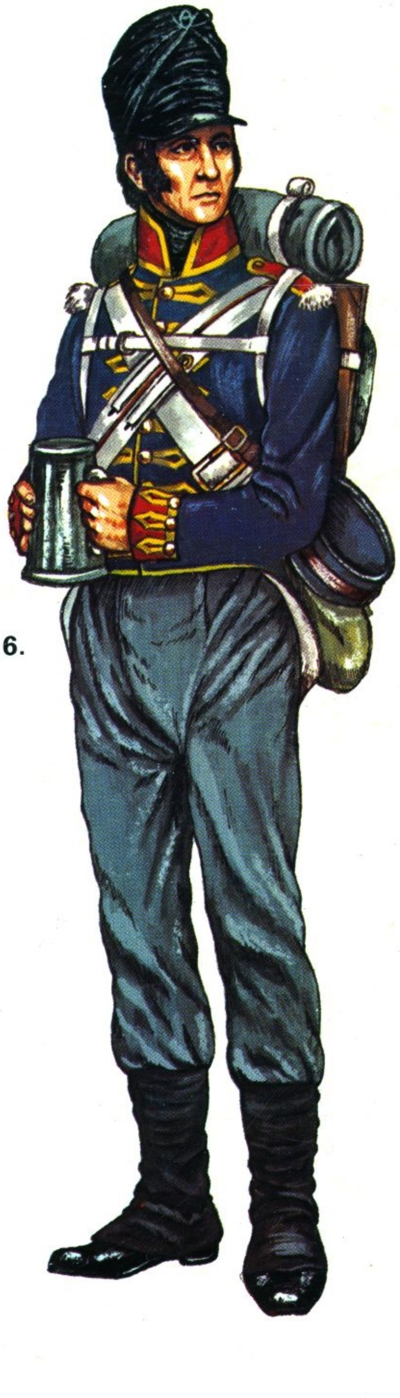


Above: Bandsman, 1815.

Below: Gunner in Service Dress, 1815.



Shako plate, 1812–1816.



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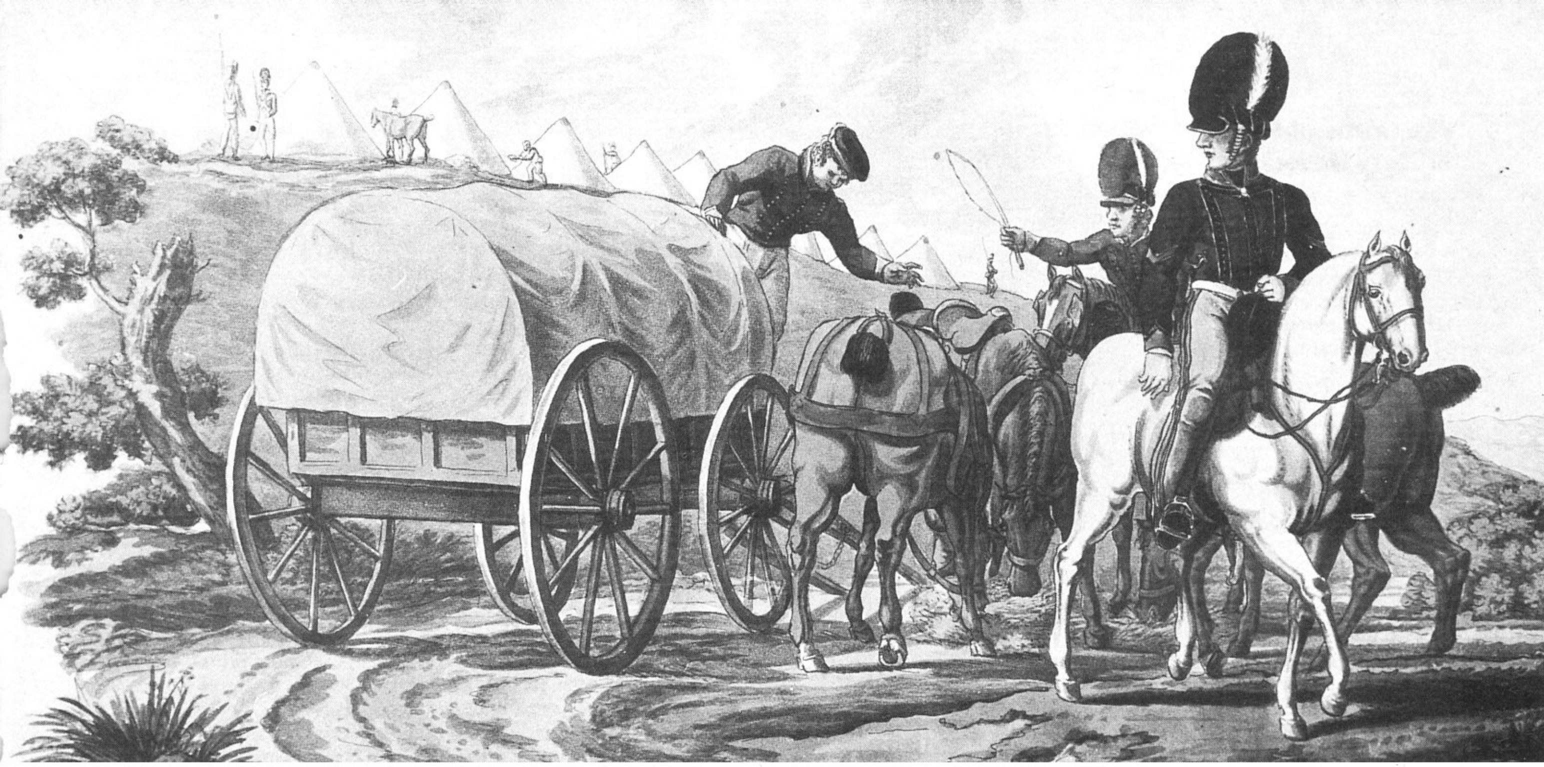


ABOVE: A contemporary illustration by Charles Hamilton Smith of Royal Artillery Drivers printed in London just prior to the Battle of Waterloo.

The Gunners at Waterloo

The Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1815 horse and foot described by Don Fosten and illustrated by Bob Marrion

Editor's note: *Before his untimely death in January this year, Don Fosten had been working on this feature and 'The Imperial and Royal Hussar Regiments of the Army of Maria Theresa' which appears elsewhere in this Christmas Special with his long-time collaborator on many a feature, Bob Marrion. These are the type of articles Don loved compiling; he enjoyed the research and could, if need be, produce his own illustrations to compliment, however, this is something he left to Bob or his brother Bryan, much preferring to research and write. I'm sure Don will be pleased to know his 'bit' on the Royal Artillery and Maria Theresa's Hussars will enjoy the wide audience of readers he knew Mil Mod would afford.*

The British Army was, overall, commanded from its Headquarters at the Horse Guards, Whitehall, but exceptions were the Artillery (and the Engineers) who were controlled by the Master General of the Ordnance from his HQ at Woolwich. The Establishment of the Artillery was laid down in a Royal Warrant of 1810 as follows:

The Staff

The Master General of the Ordnance
The Lieutenant General of the Ordnance
10 Colonels Commandant
20 Colonels
30 Lieutenant Colonels
10 Majors
1 Deputy Adjutant General
10 Adjutants
10 Quartermasters
1 Chaplain
10 Sergeant Majors
10 Quartermaster Sergeants
1 Drum Major
1 Fife Major
The Band had 38 members in 1812, including boys and blacks.

The Company of Gentlemen Cadets

1 Captain
1 Second Captain
2 First Lieutenants
1 Second Lieutenant
200 Gentlemen Cadets under instruction

Ten Battalions each consisting of:

10 Captains
10 Second Captains
20 First Lieutenants
10 Second Lieutenants
40 Sergeants
40 Corporals
90 Bombardiers
1240 Gunners
30 Drummers
1,490 being the total for each Battalion and therefore 14,900 officers, NCOs and men for the 10 Battalions.

The Invalids

(Figures omitted for this article).

The Royal Horse Artillery

1 Colonel Commandant
1 Adjutant
1 Quartermaster
2 Regimental Staff Sergeants
2 Farriers and Carriage Smiths
1 Collarmaker
1 Trumpet Major
12 Captains
12 Second Captains
36 First Lieutenants
24 Troop Staff Sergeants
36 Sergeants
72 Corporals
72 Bombardiers
1,008 Gunners
720 Drivers integrated from the Driver Corps
12 Troop Farriers and Shoeing Smiths
12 Carriage Smiths
24 Shoeing Smiths
12 Wheelwrights
12 Trumpeters

The Riding School Troop

1 Captain
3 Lieutenants
1 Quartermaster
2 Staff Sergeants
3 Sergeants
3 First Corporals
3 Second Corporals
1 Trumpeter
1 Farrier
1 Collarmaker
44 Riders

The Field Train

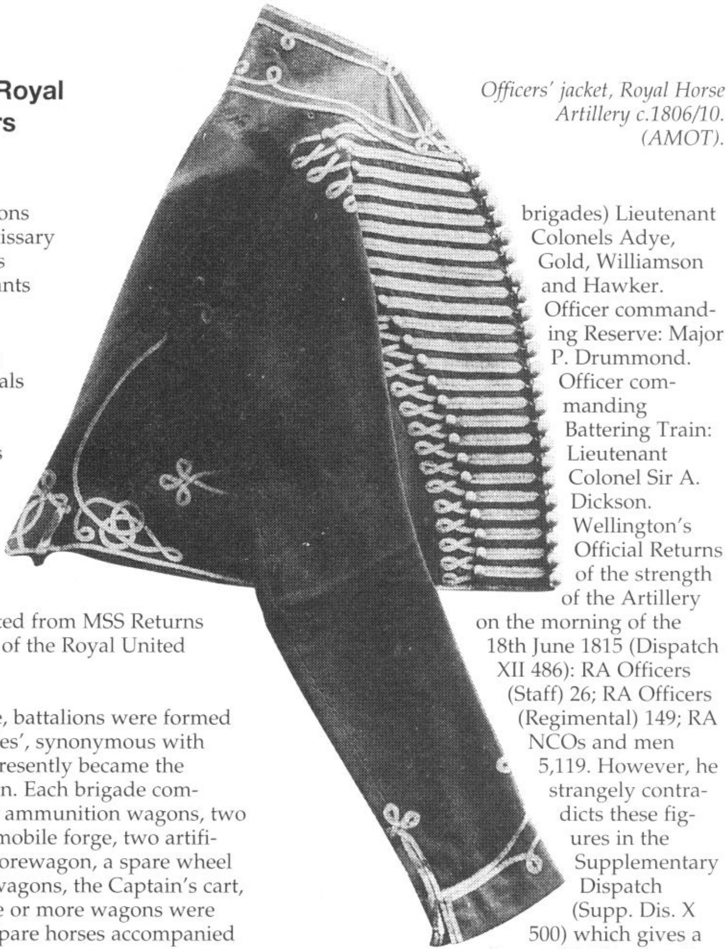
1 Chief Commissary
5 Commissaries
24 Assistant Commissaries
113 Clerks of Stores
115 Conductors
15 Military Conductors
1 Foreman
7 Smiths
6 Collarmakers
7 Wheelers
2 Carpenters
7 Painters

▶

The Corps of Royal Artillery Drivers

1 Major
2 Adjutants
8 Veterinary Surgeons
11 Captains Commissary
55 First Lieutenants
11 Second Lieutenants
55 Staff Sergeants
165 Sergeants
165 First Corporals
165 Second Corporals
22 Roughriders
55 Farriers
165 Shoeing Smiths
110 Collarmakers
110 Wheelers
55 Trumpeters
4,950 Drivers

NB: All the above details were extracted from MSS Returns held in the Library of the Royal United Services Institute.



Officers' jacket, Royal Horse Artillery c.1806/10. (AMOT).

On active service, battalions were formed in so-called 'brigades', synonymous with 'batteries', which presently became the accepted description. Each brigade comprised six guns, six ammunition wagons, two reserve wagons, a mobile forge, two artificers' wagons, one forewagon, a spare wheel carriage, baggage wagons, the Captain's cart, etc., plus tents. Five or more wagons were hauled by mules. Spare horses accompanied the column.

The Royal Horse Artillery was formed in 12 troops. Each troop was divided in three divisions, each with two guns. A sub-division was a single gun team. A gun team included the NCO (No.1), who stood at the extremity of the trail; the ventsman and the firer, who were stationed one on each side of the breech, and the loader and spongeman, one on each side of the muzzle. All British 6 and 9 pounder guns had block trails designed by Sir William Congreve. The barrels were allowed to darken and were a deep, almost black/bronze and polished with some unknown compound. Carriages, limbers, wagons and carts were painted a flat grey/blue with all the metalwork painted black. The 5 ½in howitzers retained the old fashioned short trail with brackets. The British has shafted limbers.

There is argument as to how the guns were drawn. One source states the 'brigades' paraded with only four horses to each gun, increased to six on active service. The RHA formerly had six horses but later eight and Captain Mercer wrote that his Troop had eight to each gun at Waterloo. All teams were harnessed.

The Royal Artillery Staff at Waterloo

Officer Commanding: Colonel Sir George Adam Wood.
Commanding Horse Artillery: Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Fraser.
Commanding RHA attached to Cavalry: Lieutenant Colonel A. MacDonald.
Staff Adjutant: Captain W. Pakenham.
Brigade Major: Captain H. Baynes.
CO's Adjutants: Lieutenant J. Bloomfield and Lieutenant G. Coles.
RHA Staff Adjutant: Lieutenant Colonel W. Bell.
Brigade Staff Officers (each commanding two brigades) Lieutenant Colonels Adye, Gold, Williamson and Hawker.
Officer commanding Reserve: Major P. Drummond.
Officer commanding Battering Train: Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Dickson.

Wellington's Official Returns of the strength of the Artillery on the morning of the 18th June 1815 (Dispatch XII 486): RA Officers (Staff) 26; RA Officers (Regimental) 149; RA NCOs and men 5,119. However, he strangely contradicts these figures in the Supplementary Dispatch (Supp. Dis. X 500) which gives a figure of 4,586 all ranks. Sir James H. Marshall-Cornwall, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, writing in the *Journal of the Royal Artillery* gives an assessment based on figures from Duncan's *History of the Royal Regiment*.

	Officers	ORs	Guns
RHA: 8 Troops	40	1,327	38
Brigades: 5	25	475	30
	65	1,802	78
Brigades: Detached	10	202	12

These figures do not include the Corps of Drivers. Sir James concluded these would amount to some seven Officers and 600 NCOs and men.

Brigades

In general, NCOs and men marched and the officers were mounted. Two men could be seated on the limbers and a further six transported on the ammunition wagons. All the guns were driven by personnel of the Driver Corps.

The Royal Horse Artillery

The troops were entirely mobile, but a proportion of personnel of the Driver Corps were integrated in each troop in the field.

Teams were normally kept harnessed up when the guns were in action and were held in reasonable proximity to the gun positions with the ammunition wagons kept in a prudent position further to the rear. Horses normally allocated to wagons and carts were treated as reserves in the event of casualties.

When it became necessary to materially alter gun positions in the field the gunners used drag ropes. According to Grose (c.1800) three men were used to haul on ropes on each side of the gun, the remainder pushed. Denis Dighton shows an RHA team all pulling and pushing without ropes. Ammunition included solid round shot, canister, common shells and spherical shells (invented by Lieutenant Shrapnel). Whinyate's Rockets came in a variety of weights.

Driver Corps NCOs allocated to each nine-pounder brigade were one staff sergeant, two sergeants and six corporals. One was selected as forage NCO under control of the RHA staff sergeant storekeeper. Approximately 100 drivers were allocated to each brigade and 60 to each RHA troop.

Civilian artificers were occasionally attached to brigades and included expert wheelwrights, collarmakers, farriers, jobbing smiths and shoeing smiths.

According to Jones part of the regular artillery drill was to temporarily abandon their guns and retire to adjacent infantry protection when subject to attack by cavalry. Guns were dismounted, wheels removed and scattered rendering the pieces useless to the enemy. Each team member retired with an allotted article. On a given signal by drum or bugle the men returned to their assigned position, the gun was remounted and reloaded. How this was managed, taking into account the weight of the guns and their component parts is not explained. A serious problem arose from guns recoiling in rain-sodden ground where they constantly lost position and it became next to impossible to shift them by manpower alone.

The Brigades (Sometimes referred to as "Foot" or even "Field" units)

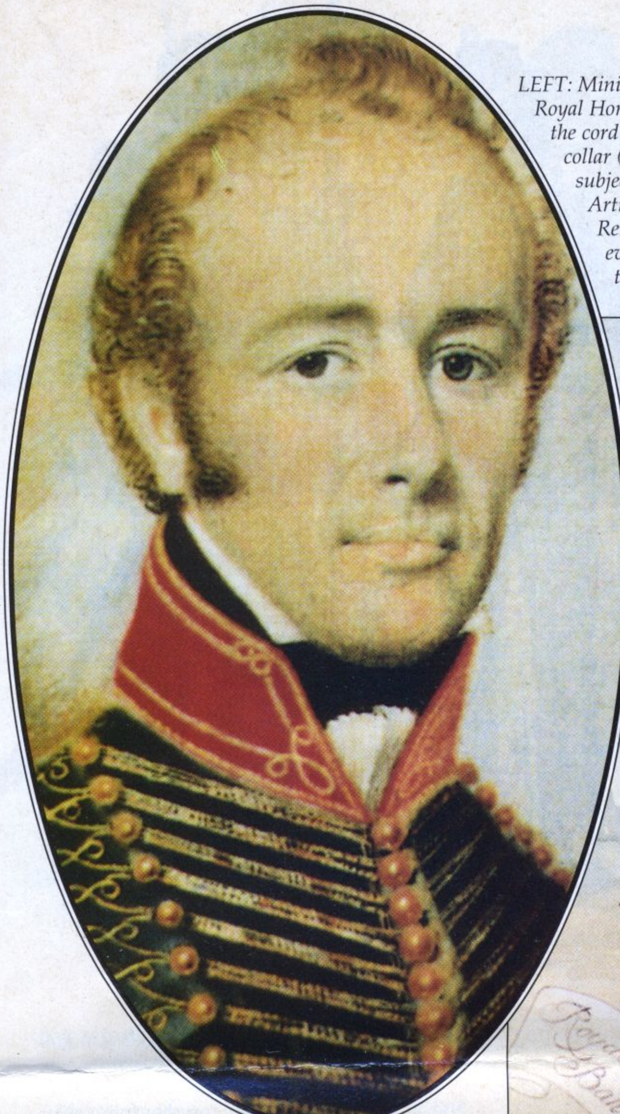
According to Dalton all Brigades were armed with 5 x 9 pounder guns and 1 x 5 ½in howitzer. However, another source gives nine pounders in general, but 4 x 9 pounders and 2 x 5 ½in howitzers for Bolton's. Brigades were usually referred to by the name of their commanders - Sandham's, Bolton's, Lloyd's, Sinclair's and Roger's.

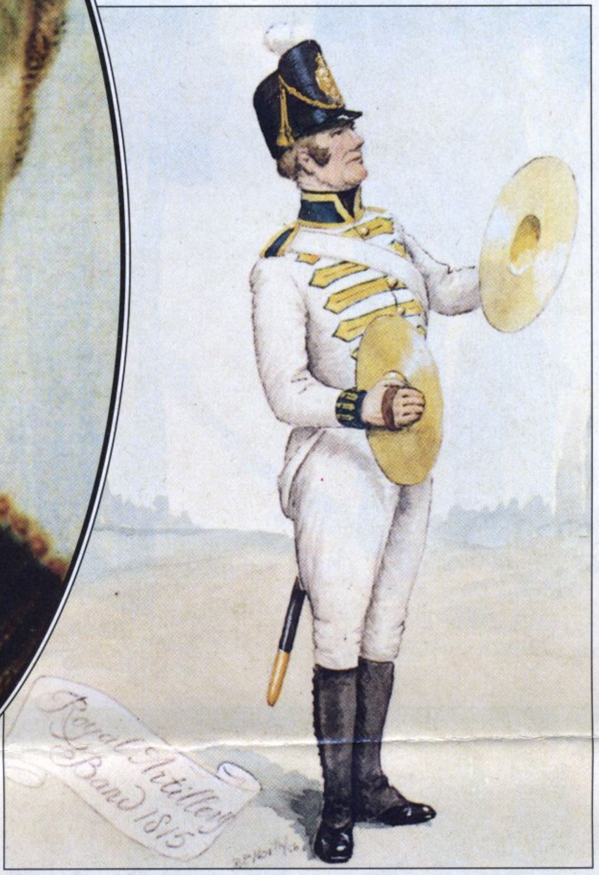
Brome's was at Hal with Colville's Division, Unett's was attached to the 6th Division and Hutcheson's was with the Ostend Garrison. There were some unattached officers and train officers present at the battle. Bolton was killed and his second captain was severely wounded, Lloyd was killed and a second lieutenant was seriously wounded, Sinclair had one officer wounded, Roger had one officer wounded who later died.

The Royal Horse Artillery Order of Battle

The Order of Battle for the campaign lists, six Troops bracketed with the seven cavalry brigades and two as reserve troops. During the retreat from Quatre Bras on the 17th June they closely supported their cavalry, frequently halting and coming into action to check the French advance.

At Waterloo Sir Robert Gardiner's Troop remained with Vivian's 6th Brigade throughout the action and Whinyate used rockets to support Ponsonby's 2nd Brigade. The remainder of the troops were positioned along the general allied position, forward of the infantry squares. Ross's ('A Troop' the original 'Chestnut Troop'), Bean's ('D Troop'), Webber Smith's ('F Troop'), Gardiner's ('E Troop'), Mercer's ('G Troop') Ramsay's ('H Troop'), Bull's ('I Troop') and Whinyate's (2nd) Rocket Troop. Ross had two officers





LEFT: Miniature painting of an officer of the Royal Horse Artillery, c.1815 clearly shows the cord tracing on the collar (AMOT). BELOW: An unusual subject of a bandsman of the Royal Artillery, c.1815, painted by the late Rene North based on contemporary evidence which would make an attractive model.

wounded, Bean was killed and had two officers wounded, one died later. Webber smith had two officers wounded, Ramsay was killed by multiple wounds, he was wounded before the battle commenced and three of his officers were wounded. Bull was wounded and he had one officer killed and one wounded. Whinyate was wounded twice and he had three officers wounded.

Dalton gives: Gardiner's Bean's and Webber Smith's armed with light six pounders; Whinyate's armed with light six pounders and various weights of Congreve Rockets; Mercer's Ramsay's and Ross's with nine pounders and Bull's with 5 ½in Howitzers.

Lieutenant Colonel A. Fraser's description varies from Dalton's. He gives A, E and G Troops nine pounders and D, F and H Troops six pounders. The 2nd Rocket Troop and H Troop light six pounders and I Troop (Bull's) 5 ½in Howitzers.

Duncan's History of the Royal Regiment states: *"...On parade the Howitzer was right of the centre Division of the Troop. Each 9 pounder or Howitzer was drawn by 8 horses and each waggon by 6. Each of the 6 mounted detachments required 8 horses; 5 were required by the Staff Sergeants and Farriers, 18 for the spare wheel carriage, mobile forge, curricle cart, baggage wagons, etc, 17 for the Officers and 6 mules were added plus the 30 spare horses. This gave a requirement of 220 horses for each Troop. There were 23 NCOs, Artificers and Trumpeters, 80 Gunners and 84 Drivers..."* which can be compared with Mercer's description which follows.

Mercer's description of his Troop

	Horses
5 x 9 pounder guns and 1 x heavy 5 ½in howitzer 8 horses each	48
9 x ammunition wagons viz. 1 to each piece and a spare per division	54
1 spare wheel carriage - 6 horses	6
1 Forge, 1 curricle cart, 1 baggage wagon 4 horses each	12
	120
6 Mounted detachments - 8 horses each	48
2 Staff Sergeants, 2 Farriers and 1 Collarmaker	5
6 Officers' horses lent by Board of Ordnance	6
6Officers' mules for carrying baggage	6
	185
Additional horses spare etc	30
	215
Officers' horses plus Surgeon's horse	11
	226

Besides his officers the Troop included the two staff sergeants, three sergeants, three corporals, six bombardiers, two farriers, three shoeing smiths, two collarmakers, one wheeler, one trumpeter, one acting trumpeter, 80 gunners and 84 drivers.

The average number of rounds fired by the RHA was 660 rounds, per troop. Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Colonel) Sir George Wood's return of casualties in the RHA dated 24.6.1815 is quoted by Duncan (Vol II 432):

	Officers	Sergeants	Rank & File	Horses
Killed	3	1	31	229
Wounded	14	8	107	59
Missing	-	-	7	21
	17	9	145	309

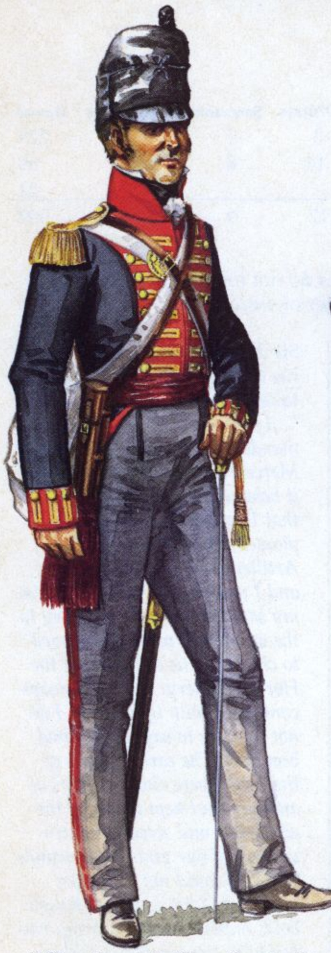
These figures do not include two officers who died later of wounds.

Sir Augustus Fraser wrote in his comments on the part taken by the RHA as follows: *"...I find my late Troop (commanded at Waterloo by Captain Mercer) has lost 90 horses, but it behaved so well, so steadily, that I am highly and justly pleased. The English Horse Artillery did great execution, and I must be allowed to express my satisfaction that, contrary to the opinion of most, I ventured to change ...the ordnance of the Horse Artillery. Had the Troops continued with light guns, I do not hesitate to say the day had been lost. The earlier hours of the battle were chiefly affairs of artillery; but kept down by the admirable and steadily continued fire of our guns, the enemy's infantry could not come "en masse" and his cavalry, though bold, impetuous and daring, was forced to try our flanks rather than the front of our position..."* At one stage Fraser learnt that Wellington was determined not to lose the wood adjacent to Hugoumont. Fraser decided that Bull's howitzer troop should be brought into action and reported his proposal to Wellington. As the Troop came up Wellington said, *"Colonel Fraser you are going to do a delicate thing; can you depend upon the force of your howitzers? Part of the wood is held by our troops and only part by the enemy"*. Fraser replied that he could depend on the Troop and explained the problem to Bull and his officers. Ten minutes after, Bull opened fire with his howitzers and the French were driven from the Wood. Bull recalled they came into action with spherical case shot (Shrapnel's design) at about 1,000 yards range and wrote - *"I have reason to believe we succeeded for our Infantry were enabled to enter the wood and the enemy were dislodge. We then ceased firing but on the enemy reinforcing it and forcing our troops to retire we recommenced our fire and in a short time our infantry again entered the wood with reinforcements. We then directed our guns on strong columns of French in the rear and support of the wood with spherical and common shell causing them to retire ...we continued in this situation firing on their guns and columns until two o'clock when we ceased firing and retired the Troop..."*

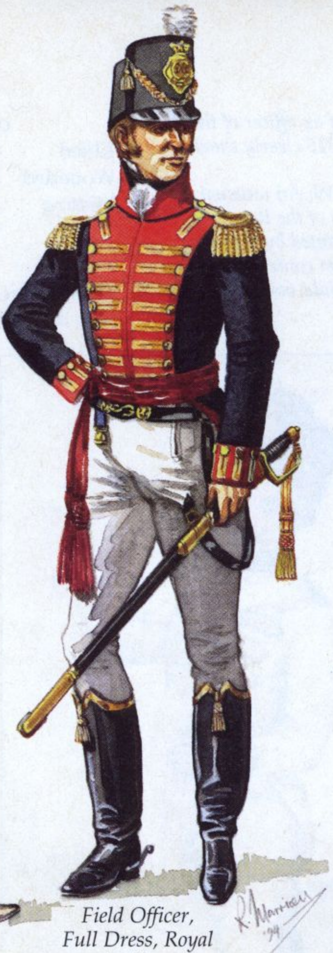
Uniforms

The Battalion's head-dress was the so-called 'Belgic cap', the black felt, high-fronted and low-crowned shako adopted also for the Infantry in 1812.

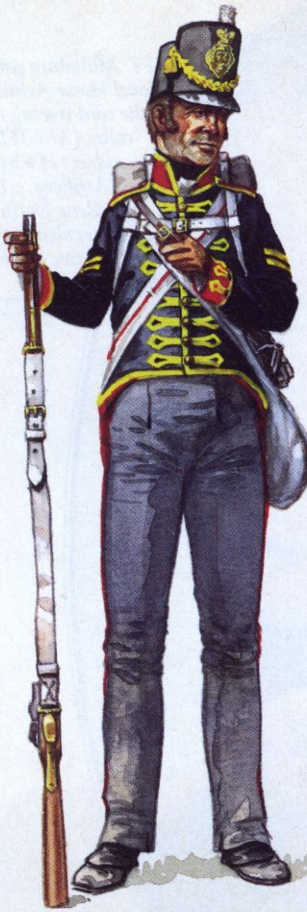
Officers' shakos: best quality felt, gold and crimson garland and tassels and a white cut feather. ▶



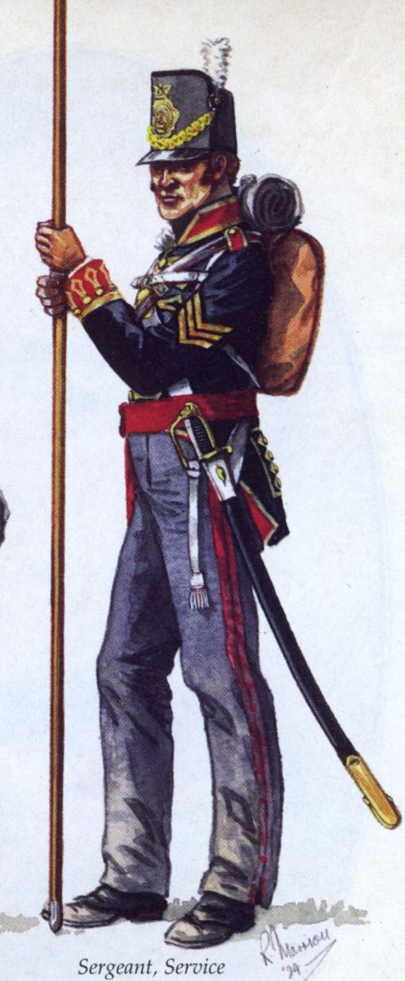
Officer Royal Artillery Service Dress. Normally the lapels would have been worn buttoned over.



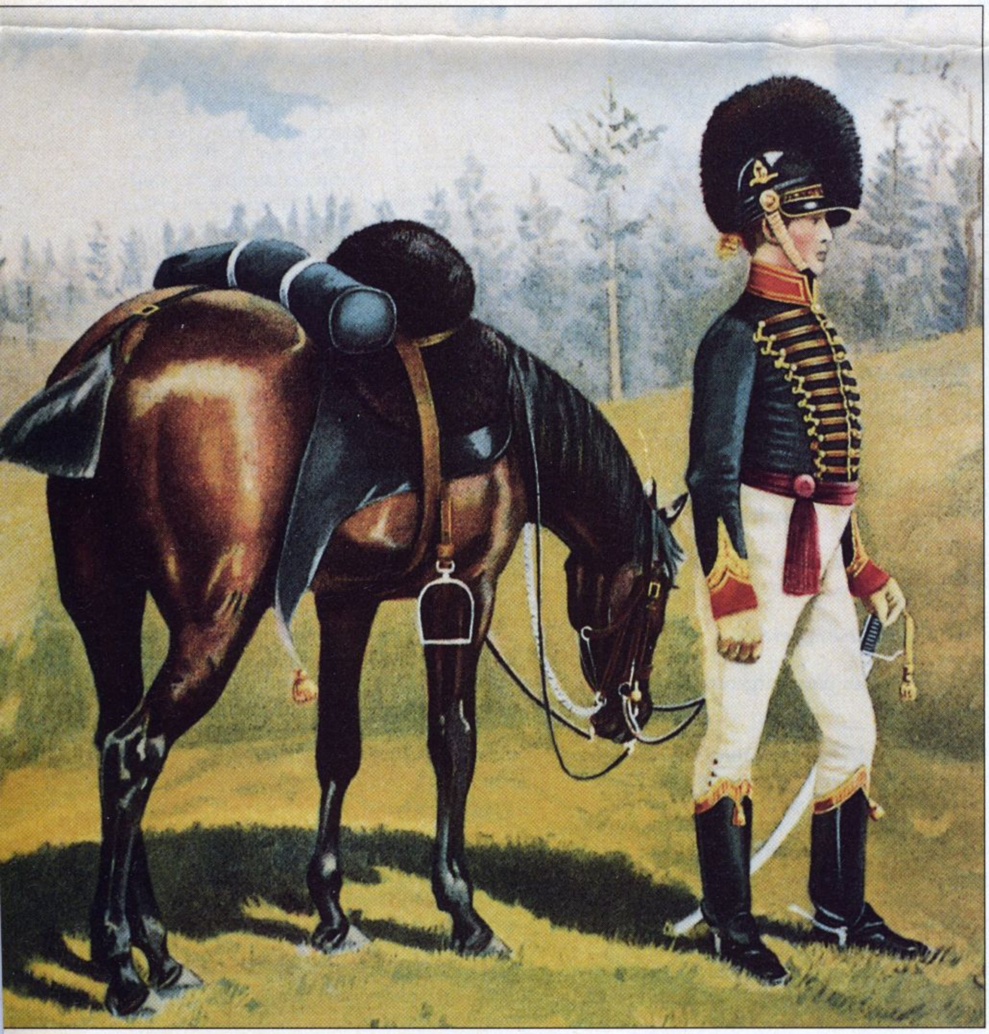
Field Officer, Full Dress, Royal Artillery.



Corporal, Service Dress, Royal Artillery.



Sergeant, Service Dress, Royal Artillery.



LEFT: Officer of the Royal Horse Artillery in Full Dress c.1815 from MacDonald's History.

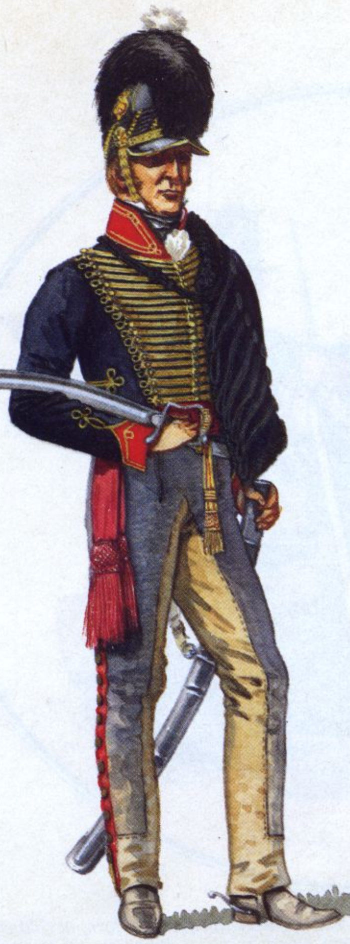
NCOs and men's shakos: rougher felt, yellow worsted garland and tassels and a white woollen tuft. No doubt senior staff sergeants would have better quality caps gold garlands and feather ornaments.

Officers' shako plates: gilt, the regular baroque style surmounted by a crown. Die struck with a matt centre embellished with the Ordnance Arms (three balls over three guns). The outer part smooth finished and polished, the edge and the border of the central matt part defined by raised fillets.

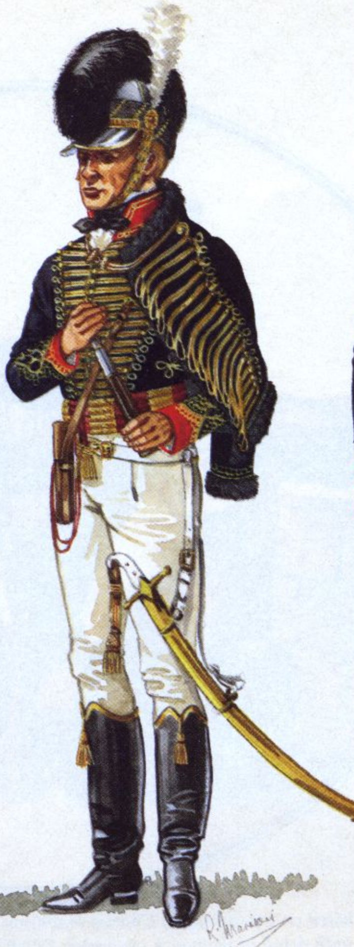
Other ranks shako plates: brass, the regular baroque style surmounted by a crown. In the centre a buckled strap inscribed 'Royal Regiment of Artillery'. In the centre of the strap the interlaced Royal Cypher 'GR'. Beneath the strap a Mortar with a ball on either side. The whole plate framed with a border edged on either side with a raised fillet.

Foul weather cover: Black oilskin with a folded up neck guard tied in front above the peak (after D. Dighton).

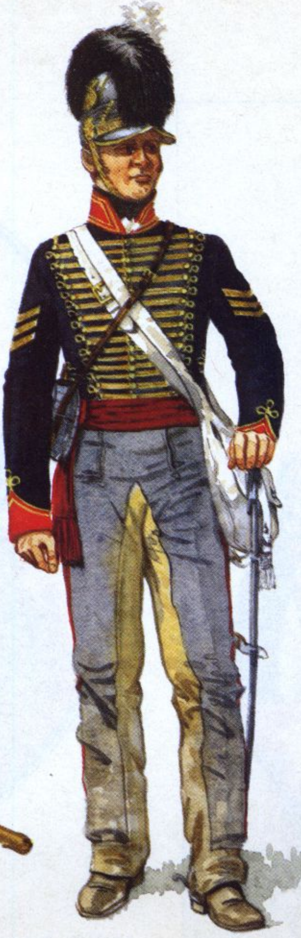
Officers' coats: The long-tailed dark blue dress coat was worn at balls, in drawing rooms and at levees The collar and the round cuffs were scarlet and the turnbacks white. The coat had a point-ended gold lace loop and button on each side of the collar, 12 similar loops with buttons on the scarlet lapels, four on each cuff and four on each horizontal pocket flap in the skirts. The pocket flaps were edged with gold lace and the turnbacks were similarly edged, with gold grenades at the junction of each pair of turnbacks.



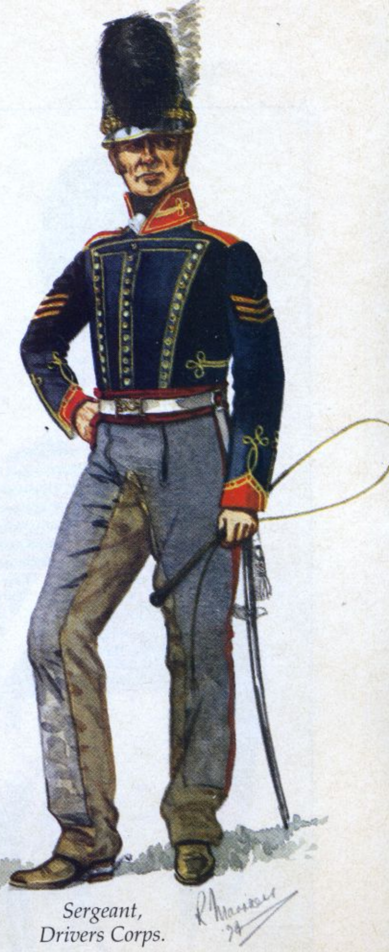
Officer, Service Dress, Royal Horse Artillery.



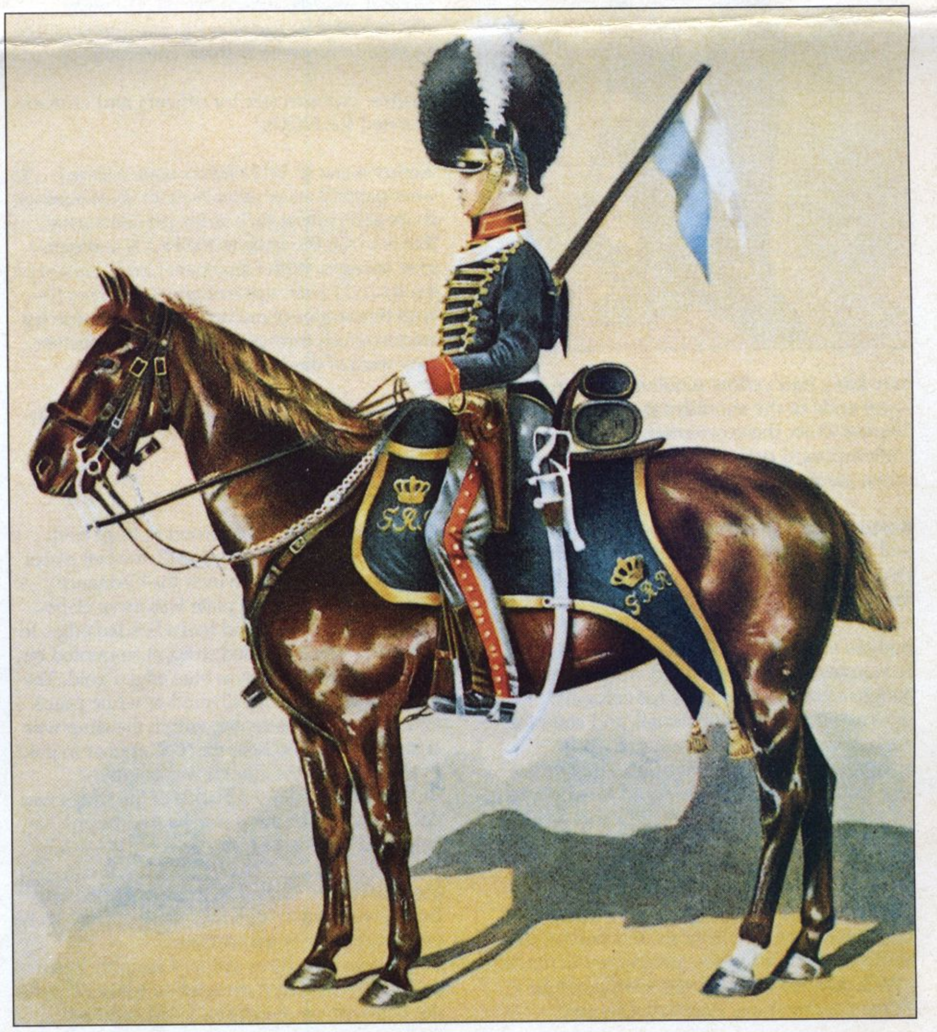
Field Officer, Full Dress, Royal Horse Artillery.



Sergeant, Service Dress, Royal Horse Artillery.



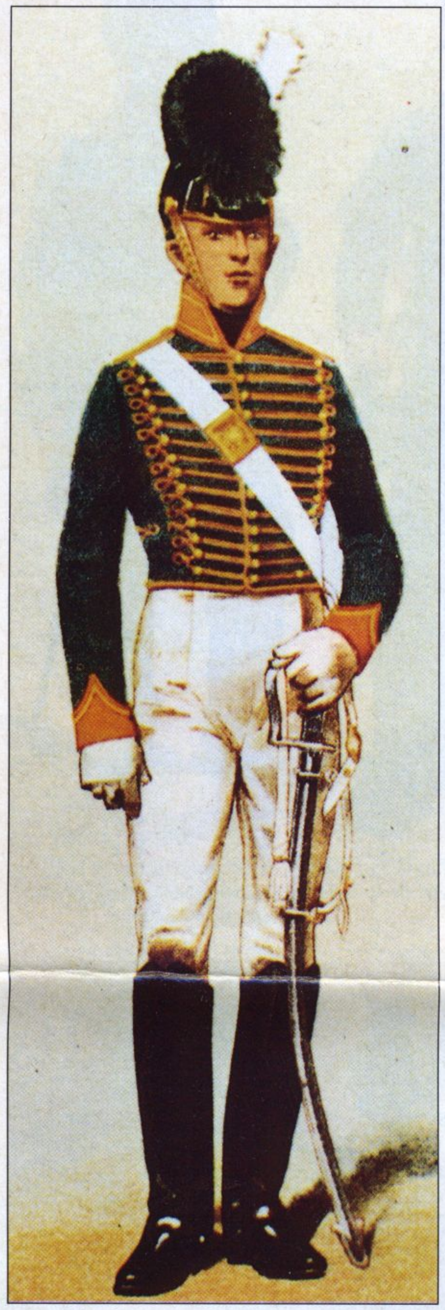
Sergeant, Drivers Corps.

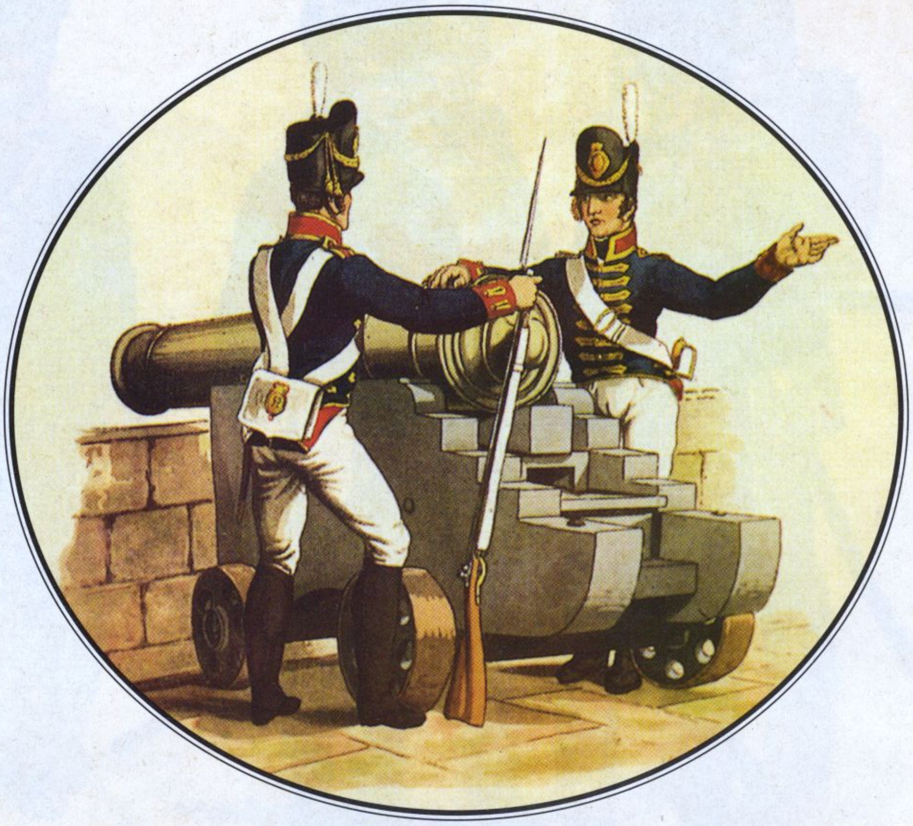


RIGHT: Rocket Troop soldier of the Royal Horse Artillery by R.J. MacDonald from his history of the Dress of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, 1625-1897, first published as a limited edition in 1899.

The short-tailed jacket worn on active service and for all other everyday duties was dark blue with a scarlet collar, round cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. The jacket of a Lieutenant Green, which formed part of the Royal United Services Institution's collection, had a plain scarlet collar, eight point-ended gold lace loops on each lapel with additional short loops at the tops of the lapels, set at 45 degrees to the horizontal loops with buttons close to the collar. The cuffs had four similar loops and the scarlet turnbacks were plain. A triangle of gold lace was placed between the two buttons at the waist. No doubt there were other deviations from this version of the jacket with point-ended loops and buttons on the collar and additional loops on the lapels, suiting men of greater height. The gold lace had a 'wave' or 'zigzag' pattern and the lace loops had a 'light' of the scarlet or blue undercloth. The slanting pockets in the skirts had four buttons and loops and were framed with gold lace. Some jackets had gold grenades on the turnbacks.

Other ranks coats: short-tailed, single breasted, dark blue jackets of the same style worn by the Infantry. Red collars, cuffs, turnbacks and shoulder straps. The collar, shoulder straps, turnbacks and bottom edge all trimmed with yellow lace. The fronts decorated with nine or 10 loops of bastion' ended yellow worsted lace, four similar loops on each cuff and on each slanting pocket flap which were also framed with the same lace. There was a triangle of the lace between the waist buttons at the rear. The jacket ▶





ABOVE: Print based on a painting by Charles Hamilton Smith shows the dress uniform of soldiers of the Royal Artillery with detail of the pouch ornament. (AMOT). LEFT: Gunner, Royal Horse Artillery, 1815 by P.W. Reynolds from Records and Badges by Chichester and Burges-Short, first published in 1895.

may have had yellow woollen tufts on the outer ends of the shoulder straps, but not all sources show these ornaments. In at least one contemporary print a gunner is shown with white turnbacks.

Buttons: the same pattern for all ranks - flat and decorated with a shield bearing the Ordnance Arms. Gilt for officers and brass for other ranks.

Badges of rank: Field officers - two bullion epaulettes with point-ended straps and silver badges - crowns and stars for colonels; crowns for lieutenant colonels and stars for majors. Captains and subalterns - one epaulette on the right shoulder - no badges and thinner fringe.NCOs - gold lace chevrons on scarlet backing for staff sergeants and sergeants and jackets laced with gold. Yellow worsted chevrons on red for corporals and bombardiers. Chevrons worn on both sleeves; four for staff sergeants, three for sergeants, two for corporals and one for bombardiers. company sergeants (equivalents of colour sergeants) had a regimental colour above the chevrons, supported by two crossed swords, which leaves it unclear whether this badge was the familiar Infantry pattern or worn over three chevrons.

Sashes: crimson silk for officers and crimson worsted for NCOs.

Nether wear: In 1812 officers were ordered ...'to wear pantaloons or overalls, with short boots or shoes and gaiters, such as the private means', that is to say the same as the NCOs and men's grey trousers. With Lieutenant Green's jacket (at the R.U.S.I.) were a pair of grey/blue overalls with two stripes of red braid up the outside leg seams (which throws some doubt on whether they were of the Artillery).

Greatcoats: grey and of the same caped pattern worn by the Infantry.

Equipment

Officers: swords were carried in frogs from shoulder belts. Until about 1812, the belt plates were oval with a crown over the Ordnance Arms. The subsequent plate was more elaborate. It was gilt, oval and had a beaded edge. In the centre was a buckled strap, surmounted by the Crown, the strap was blue edged gold. The Crown was gold with silvered or white pearls and a red cap. The centre, within the strap was enamelled red and bore the 'GR' cypher in gold. In a curve over the Crown was engraved ROYAL and under the buckle of the straps was ARTILLERY. The strap was backed by an engraved sunburst or star.

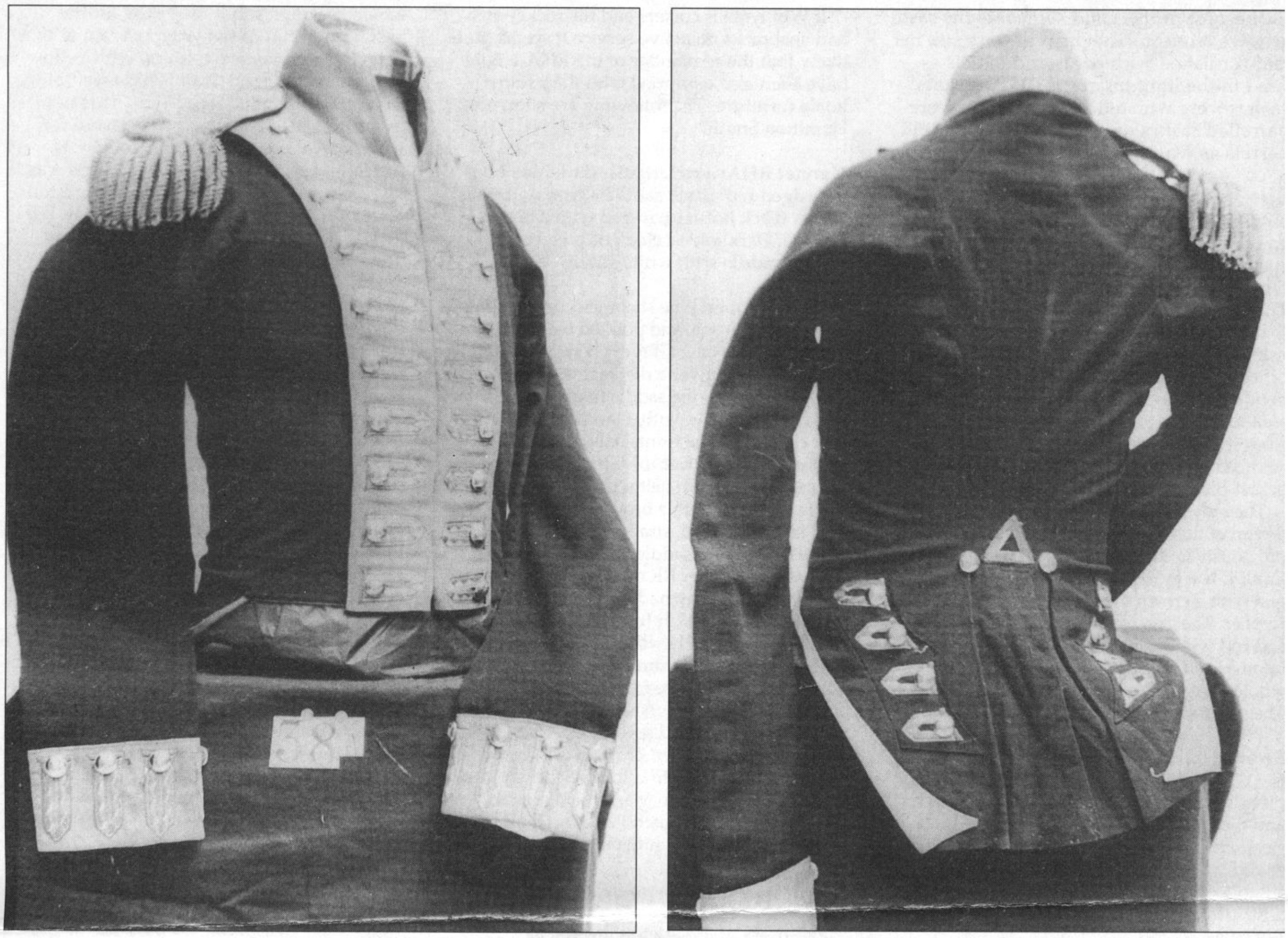
Field officers: carried their swords on slings from waistbelts with snake clasps. They were either white or black leather.
Sergeants: swords or artillery hangers when worn were carried from a white leather shoulder belt with an oval brass buckle and a frog.

Other ranks: contemporary sources provided a confusing picture. Some men are shown with only one shoulder belt, with a buckle, but no plate and a frog for a hanger. Others have crossed belts, one supporting a bayonet, the other a white leather pouch. The pouch-belt has two loops for steel priming tools and a third for a small brass hammer. The belt has, in addition, runners for a red powder horn cord. The brass mounted horn rests on the flap of the pouch which has a brass crown and strap brass badge with red backing. Others have two crossed belts without the flasks or tools. It seems likely that only the ventsmen and firers, attending the breech, needed priming tools and hammers. Other men may have only worn the pouch and bayonet belts while on the march and discarded them when serving the gun. The hangers may have been abandoned by 1815 as prints made subsequent to 1815 show gunners with only bayonets and pouch belts with their carbines slung over their shoulders and on their backs.

Knapsacks: Denis Dighton shows artillerymen with brown knapsacks. These are either natural leather or painted that colour. They have RA painted on the flap in either yellow, white or black. They may also have had the more familiar red painted circle on the flap inscribed with RA in yellow or white.

Arms

Officers: the battalion officers were armed with swords of the same pattern as the 1786 Infantry Pattern weapon with a gilt/brass pommel, guard and shells, a silver wire grip and a black leather scabbard with brass gilt mounts. Field officers were armed with sabres in brass scabbards or even Mameluke swords.



ABOVE: An officer's jacket (Lieutenant Green) c.1815 showing front and rear detail. (AMOT).

Sergeants: armed with a brass mounted, cheaper version of the infantry officers' sword and 9-foot cross bar pikes. They may have carried the artillery hanger in lieu of the sword.

Other Ranks: armed with the artillery carbine which had a 3ft 1in barrel and was 4ft 4in long overall. The bayonet had a 1ft 1in blade. The hanger had a brass hilt with a knuckle bow guard and a black leather grip. The blade was broad, straight and 25in long. It was carried in a black leather scabbard with brass mounts.

Uniforms of The Royal Horse Artillery

Head-dress: all ranks, the old light dragoon helmet-cap, popularly referred to as the 'Tarleton' helmet. It had a black lacquered leather skull and upswept peak, gilt or brass fittings, including chin scales, a trim to the peak and a small socket for a white plume on the left side. There was a reinforcing bar over the crown according to Charles Hamilton Smith.

A version of this helmet, which was in the R.U.S.I. collection, had a full bearskin crest, a brass or gilt chain wound round a black turban and the bottom edge fashioned to fit easily on the head. There may have been a metal title band across the front above the peak. The helmet had no metal reinforcing band. Officers' caps had a badge, probably an oval or circular strap with a solid centre surmounted by a crown, or a similar design with an added three part scroll beneath, on the right side above the turban. The writer has seen another example of this helmet fitted with a black oilskin cover for the crest. However, these were unlikely to have been worn in Belgium as Mercer mentions how awful his men's head-dresses looked when the heavy rain flattened the bearskin.

Coats: all ranks wore jackets fashioned in the hussar 'dolman' style. Officers jackets were dark blue with scarlet collars and pointed cuffs and had gilt buttons. The collar was decorated with a double row of gold cord and there were two rows of gold cord on the cuffs fashioned in trefoils up the sleeves. Goddard (1812), on the other hand, indicates a more lavish cuff ornament in the form of an Austrian knot.

The fronts of the jacket were embellished with three rows of 24 buttons and rich gold frogging set on so close as to all but obliterate the blue undercloth. Mercer says they looked like 'furzebushes'. The jacket was edged all round with gold cord and there were further cords up the back seams with trefoil terminations near the shoulders.

The NCOs and men had similar dark blue jackets with red collars and pointed cuffs and brass buttons. There was one row of yellow lace around the collar and one row on the pointed cuffs, with a single loop or eye according to MacDonald, without loop or knot by Hamilton Smith and with a trefoil knot by Goddard. The front of the jacket was decorated with three rows of approximately 12 buttons and yellow worsted frogging. The jacket was edged all round with yellow braid and there were further braids, quite elaborate in some versions, up the back seams. Senior NCOs and sergeants had gold frogging and braiding. A water colour by Denis Dighton shows two NCOs of the RHA with what appears to be gold lace chevrons on both sleeves; the sergeant has three and the corporal two chevrons. Sauerweid shows one NCO of the RHA with inverted chevrons. Hamilton Smith shows chevrons on both sleeves for a Driver Corps second corporal.

Overalls: by 1815, all ranks were wearing grey overalls on active service. They had red stripes down the outward seams, brown leather strapping and 4in deep cuffs at the bottoms. Officers may have had custom made overalls fitted with gilt buttons from ankle to thigh, but more usually had four or five buttons opening the overalls at ankle level with chains to fit under the insteps.

Pelisses: introduced about 1805/6, but not officially sanctioned until 1808. Early patterns were poorly frogged and had brown fur. Later patterns had astrakhan fur and were more elaborately frogged and laced. However, for active service simpler pelisses were usually worn with black frogging and toggle buttons.

Greatcoats/cloaks: Hamilton Smith shows a dark blue cloak folded behind the saddle. Sauerweid gives a driver a voluminous caped coat with deep round cuffs of a similar pattern to those worn by the infantry. A bulky garment it has a standing/falling collar, an elbow length cape and very wide sleeves. ▶

Sashes: for officers and sergeants the sashes were crimson. The officers were silk net and furnished with cords and tassels as used in the light infantry. The sergeants' sashes were worsted. Some officers wore barrelled sashes of crimson silk with gold barrels as worn by hussars.

Belts: neither the officers, nor the NCOs or men wore pouchbelts. NCOs and men were equipped with shoulder belts with the sword suspended from a single large ring on the left hip. Officers wore waistbelts with two rings. There is evidence from Mercer and Dighton that weapons were carried, at least in some troops, in different styles. Some had all ranks, officers, NCOs and men with swords suspended from waistbelts and discarded the shoulder belts. Some officers wore swords from shoulder belts. When the shoulder sword belt was worn it was provided with a breast-plate, shown by Hamilton Smith.

The only clue the writer has traced for the design of this plate is from evidence of one previously in the collection of the late A.R. Cattley. It was rectangular, brass with a central gun with a crown over, flanked by the Royal Cypher. The gun was flanked by a rammer and rod with match. Below the gun the troop number and a pile of cannon balls. Under the whole design the words ROYAL ARTILLERY. The plate is also described by Major Parkyn.

Swords: officers and men were armed with the 1796 Light Cavalry Sabre. The guard, back piece and pommel were steel, the grip black and the curved 32_in blade was carried in a steel scabbard. Officers also had an undress sword which was lighter and even more sharply curved, but that pattern appears to have been impractical for campaigning

The Rocket Troops

We can do no better than quote from Brevet Major E.C. Whinyate's own description: *"With respect to the uniform and equipment of the Rocket Troop at the Battle of Waterloo, the men were dressed like the Horse Artillery, viz. with a laced jacket (having three rows of buttons in front) and helmet. Their appointments (both horse and man), however, differed from those of the Horse Artillery. They had a pouch belt, which the Horse Artillery had not. Each mounted man carried a fasces of three or four rockets sticks in a bucket in a manner similar to the mode lances and Dragoon carbines are carried. These sticks were carried on the right side of the horse. Besides these the "centre of threes" carried a small trough on his saddle bag, in which the rocket was laid when fired. Every man in the Rocket Sections carried rockets in his holsters. Should you (the letter was addressed to Captain Siborne) entertain any representation of the costume of the troops the small flag (shown by Hamilton Smith) attached to the rocket stick should not be introduced. it was added by the Captain as an ornament and discontinued. It was not part of the real equipment. The horse appointments were those of the Light Cavalry and the NCOs and men had blue shabracks edged yellow". Captain Warde in a similar letter mentions"...the Rocket Troop was told of in thirteen sections each section carrying 8-6 pound rockets..."*

Lieutenant Dansey stated "...we had with this Troop a great awkward lumbering carriage with an apparatus known as the Bombarding Frame for the heavy rockets; my impression is that at the time of our advance with the guns, this carriage did not go forward to the front with use but I recollect seeing it, with its great long frame cocked up in the air at an angle of 45 degrees and firing away..."

If Whinyate is correct and his rocket men had shabracks on active service it seems quite likely that the remainder of the RHA would have been also equipped with their fuller horse furniture. The following are shown by Hamilton Smith:

Gunner RHA: a rectangular dark blue housing edged red. Black saddle edged with fine white. Black holster covered with a bearskin flounce. Dark folded cloak or greatcoat behind saddle with white straps.

Rocket Trooper: blue shabrack edged yellow the rounded fronts and pointed rear corners. yellow crowns over GPR cyphers fronts and rear. Congreve gives a distinctive shabrack very large before the saddle to cover the large rocket holsters and with a tasselled pointed rear corner. On the fronts only, the Prince of Wales's. feathers over the GPR cypher. The trooper has a pouch belt with black pouch, a white waistbelt with a brown pistol holster, butt facing forward, strap over, on left side. Sabre strapped to saddle. Blue valise edged yellow with A over RR over C on ends.

Norman Ramsay had been severely wounded on the 17th June and could not wear his helmet. He wore a forage cap until he was killed - according to one source by concerted carbine fire from *Chasseurs à Cheval*, firing from horseback. He also wore a hussar type barrelled sash. Robert Bull is said to have had a 'full set' of moustache and beard and Mercer had a moustache. On the march after Waterloo Mercer's personal orderly carried a French lance, no doubt complete with red and white pennon!

The Corps of Drivers

Head-dress: the 'Tarleton' helmet as described for the RHA, but with a blue, not black, turban and a white plume.

Coat: both MacDonald and Carl Vernet show, for 1806 and 1815, respectively, a jacket which is the same pattern as worn by the battalions. Dark blue with red collars, cuffs and shoulder straps. MacDonald gives his figure a yellow bastion loop on the collar and yellow trim to the shoulder straps and white turnbacks. Vernet's figure has a plain red collar, cuffs and shoulder straps. Both have overalls with red stripes and a single row of buttons. If Vernet drew his figure from life it confirms that at least some of the Driver Corps were dressed in this uniform at Waterloo.
However, Hamilton Smith's plate, published 1st June 1815, shows a uniform which resembles that provided for the NCOs and men of the Wagon Train at that date, but in reversed colours, with yellow buttons (i.e. Wagon Train - red faced blue, Driver Corps - blue faced red). This new uniform is also shown by Sauerweid for 1816 and in two important prints by H. Alken c.1822, when the Driver Corps was dispensed with. Sauerweid and Hamilton Smith show only the front of the coat, but luckily Alken shows the back. The head-dress remained the same.

1812 Jacket: dark blue with red collar and pointed cuffs and twin white turnbacks. The front decorated with three rows of yellow buttons all framed in yellow lace. The collar edged all round with yellow lace and Alken adds a bastion loop of lace on each collar front. The pointed cuffs are also edged yellow. The overalls are grey with two red stripes in the Hamilton Smith, but distinctively blue with two red stripes in the later Alken. Alken's 1822 version also has yellow light cavalry girdles with two red stripes, but this addition to the uniform was probably added after Waterloo.

Forage caps: in both the Hamilton Smith and the Alken prints are figures in forage caps. Allowing for the seven years between publication it is remarkable that the caps appear substantially the same. They have flat, plate-like crowns without a pom pom, of blue cloth and yellow (1812) or red (1822) cap bands. The earlier version has a narrower softer crown, the 1822 version has a wider stiffer top.

Farrier's cap: Sauerweid shows a squat bearskin cap with a black chin strap and a short white hair plume on the left. A white metal horseshoe badge on the front.

The writer has found no evidence of the uniform of the officers of the Driver Corps, but it surely must have had some distinctive difference from the RHA officers or from the RA battalion officers. Bearing in mind the similarity of the design of the other ranks' jacket to the Wagon Train it is suggested the officers' uniform may have followed the same pattern. In which case they would have a blue coat with scarlet collars and cuffs and three rows of gilt buttons and gold cord frogging.

On each side of the collar two square-ended gold lace loops and above each round cuff six buttons and 'V' shaped square-ended gold loops. The turnbacks would be white. This must be conjectural unless, of course, any reader has further information! ■

References

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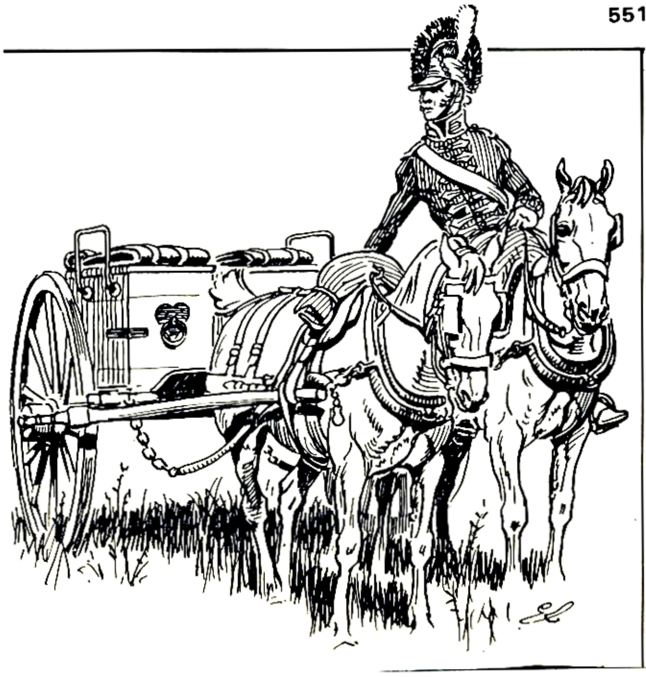
Congreve's Rockets

Dear Sir,

It was most interesting to read Ian Fletcher's study of "Congreve's Rockets" (*Military Modelling,* December 1987). However, one error needs correction: the portrait illustrated on p. 873 is *not* "Sir William Congreve, 1772-1828", but rather "Sir William Congreve, 1741-1814": i.e. the father of the inventor of the rocket. The portrait in question shows the uniform of the Royal Artillery, from a study by P. J. de Loutherbourg for his picture "The Grand Attack on Valenciennes"; his son, "rocket" Congreve, never served in the Royal Artillery. (A biography of the elder Congreve, including a reproduction of the de Loutherbourg original, appeared in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research,* Vol. LI (1973), written by W. Y. Carman.)

The double-barrelled pistol shown in the illustration of the R.H.A. trooper presumably represents one of the batch of 80 ordered from the gunsmith Henry Nock in 1793, at a cost of £8 each; it has been noted that the excessive weight of these weapons (7lb 12oz) made it almost impossible to use them with one hand, necessitating the use of the "shifting butt", or shoulder-stock, turning them into a carbine. It would be interesting to know what evidence exists for these weapons remaining in use some 20 years after their manufacture. Modellers wishing to depict this unusual firearm will find an illustration, and account of their manufacture, in *British Military Firearms 1650-1850* (H. L. Blackmore, London 1961).

Philip Haythornthwaite



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